ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF A)
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND)
ACID RAIN PERMIT TO)
ROBBINS COMMUNITY POWER)
TN ROBBINS)

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REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had and testimony taken at the public hearing of the above-entitled matter before the Illinois EPA Bureau of Air, at Kellar Junior High School, 14123

Lydia Avenue, Robbins, Illinois, on April 8,

2008, at the hour of 6:00 p.m.

IEPA PRESENT:

- MR. KENT MOHR, Hearing Officer;
- MR. BOB SMET, Bureau of Air Permit Section;
- MR. CHRIS ROMAINE, Bureau of Air Permit Section;
- MR. THEODORE J. DRAGOVICH, Bureau of Land;
- MR. H. MARK WIGHT, Legal Counsel.

ALSO PRESENT:

MR. EDWARD C. KALEBICH, Robbins Community Power, LLC

MR. RICHARD TRZUPEK, Mostardi Platt Environmental.

EXHIBITS: PAGE:

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1 MR. MOHR: Good evening. My name is
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- 2 Kent Mohr, and I work for the Illinois
- 3 Environmental Protection Agency. I want to
- 4 thank everyone for coming out tonight, as the
- 5 Illinois EPA believes that these public hearings
- 6 are a crucial part of the permit review process.
- 7 I have been designated to serve this evening as
- 8 the hearing officer for this matter. As the
- 9 hearing officer, my sole purpose tonight is to
- 10 make sure that this proceeding runs properly and
- in accordance with the rules. Therefore, it is
- 12 not my job to answer questions regarding the
- permit process or the permit itself.
- 14 This is a public hearing before the
- 15 Illinois EPA in the matter of air pollution
- 16 control construction permit submitted by Robbins
- 17 Community Power, LLC. Robbins Community Power
- has applied for an air pollution control
- 19 construction permit from the Illinois EPA to
- 20 reactivate the former Robbins resource recovery
- 21 facility located at 13400 South Kedzie Avenue in
- 22 Robbins, Illinois, as an electric power plant

1 with a nominal rated capacity of 55 megawatts.

- 2 The plant will consist of two wood-fired
- 3 boilers, each equipped with selective
- 4 noncatalytic reduction system, an oxidation
- 5 catalyst, a spray dryer absorber and a baghouse.
- 6 Ancillary operations would include wood handling
- 7 and storage, ash handling and storage, limestone
- 8 handling and storage, cooling tower and other
- 9 ancillary operations.
- 10 The Illinois EPA has made a
- 11 preliminary determination to issue a
- 12 construction permit for the project and has
- 13 prepared to draft permit for review. The
- 14 Illinois EPA is holding a public comment period
- and a hearing to accept comments from the public
- on the proposed issuance of a permit for this
- 17 project prior to making a final decision on the
- 18 application.
- The plant would be considered a
- 20 major source for emissions of nitrogen oxide or
- 21 NOx under the Illinois Rules for Major
- 22 Stationary Sources Construction and

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1 Modification, 35 Illinois Administrative Code
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- 2 part 203. Under these rules, the boilers are
- 3 subject to the lowest achievable emission rate,
- 4 or LAER, for emissions of NOx. The Illinois
- 5 EPA's initial review concludes that the low-NOx
- 6 combustion technology and a selective
- 7 noncatalytic reduction system on the boilers
- 8 will provide LAER. In addition, Robbins
- 9 Community Power has proposed to obtain
- 10 creditable emission offsets in order to account
- or compensate for the emissions increase from
- 12 this project.
- The plant would not be considered a
- major source under the federal rules or
- 15 prevention of significant deterioration or
- 16 PSD, 40 CFR 52.21. However, the two boilers were
- originally subject to best available control
- 18 technology or BACT when they were used for
- 19 combustion of municipal waste. Although PSD
- does not apply, the Illinois EPA has made a
- 21 determination of BACT for emissions of
- 22 particulate matter, PM, sulfur dioxide SO2, acid

1 gases, heavy metals and organic materials from

- 2 the boilers as if BACT were to apply. The
- 3 Illinois EPA has concurred with Robbins
- 4 Community Power's selection of control
- 5 technologies as it reflected technologies that
- 6 are in common use on wood-fired boilers and
- 7 effectively control emissions.
- 8 The plant is not a major source for
- 9 emissions of hazardous air pollutants, or HAP.
- 10 Further, an air quality analysis submitted by
- 11 Robbins Community Power and reviewed by the
- 12 Illinois EPA shows that the plant will not cause
- violations of the national ambient air quality
- 14 standards for nitrogen dioxide, or NO2, sulfur
- dioxide SO2, particulate matter 10 or PM10, and
- 16 carbon monoxide (CO). The air quality analysis
- shows compliance with the allowable increments
- 18 for NOx and PM10 established under the PSD
- 19 regulations. The Illinois EPA has determined
- that the application for the proposed plant
- 21 complies with all applicable Illinois Pollution
- 22 Control Board Air Pollution Regulations and

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1 applicable federal New Source Performance
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- 2 Standards, 40 CFR part 60.
- In conjunction with the issuance of
- 4 this construction permit, the Illinois EPA is
- 5 also issuing a separate Acid Rain permit for the
- 6 proposed boilers to address requirements of the
- 7 federal Acid Rain program. These boilers would
- 8 be affected units under the Acid Rain Deposition
- 9 Control Program pursuant to Title IV of the
- 10 Clean Air Act. As affected units under the Acid
- Rain program, Robbins Community Power must hold
- 12 SO2 allowances each year for the actual
- emissions of SO2 from the boilers.
- It is now 7:22 on Tuesday April 8,
- 15 2008. This hearing is being held for the
- 16 purpose of explaining the Illinois EPA's draft
- permit to respond to questions and to receive
- 18 public comments on this draft permit.
- This public hearing is being held
- 20 under the provisions of the Illinois EPA's
- 21 Procedures for Permit and Closure Plan Hearings,
- 22 which can be found at 35 Illinois Administrative

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1 Code part 166. Copies of these proceedings can
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- 2 be obtained from myself upon request or they can
- 3 be accessed on the Web site of the Illinois
- 4 Pollution Control Board at www.ipcb.state.il.us.
- 5 A public hearing means that this is strictly an
- 6 informational hearing. It's an opportunity for
- 7 the Illinois EPA to provide you with information
- 8 concerning the permit and it is also an
- 9 opportunity for you to provide information to
- 10 the Illinois EPA concerning the permit. This is
- 11 not a contested hearing.
- 12 I would like to explain how
- tonight's hearing is going to proceed. First,
- 14 we will have the staff of the Illinois EPA that
- are present tonight introduce themselves and
- identify their responsibilities at the agency.
- 17 Then we will introduce the representatives of
- Robbins Community Power. As an aside, as you
- walked in this evening representatives from
- 20 Robbins Community Power set up a reference table
- 21 with various informational items for you.
- 22 Robbins Community Power has generated and

1 prepared this information. Illinois EPA has

- 2 played no role in preparation of these materials
- 3 nor endorses the material. I do have a copy of
- 4 this material and will make it a part of the
- 5 record. After the representatives from Robbins
- 6 Community Power have introduced themselves, they
- 7 will make a brief presentation regarding the
- 8 proposed project and will have a PowerPoint
- 9 presentation available so that all can follow
- 10 along. This PowerPoint presentation will also
- 11 be made part of the record.
- 12 Following this presentation, I will
- allow the public to ask questions or provide
- 14 comments. You are not required to verbalize
- 15 your comments. As written comments are given
- 16 the same consideration and may be submitted to
- 17 the agency at any time within the public comment
- period, which ends at midnight on May 8, 2008.
- Any person who would like to make oral comments
- 20 may do so as long as the statements are relevant
- 21 to the issues that are addressed at the hearing
- 22 and such person has indicated on the

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1 registration card that you received when you
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- 2 came in tonight that he or she would like to
- 3 comment. If you have lengthy comments or
- 4 questions, it might be helpful to submit them to
- 5 me in writing before the close of the comments
- 6 period, and I will ensure that they are included
- 7 in the hearing record as exhibits. Please keep
- 8 your comments and questions relevant to the
- 9 issue at hand. If your comments fall outside
- the scope of this hearing, I may ask you to
- 11 proceed to another issue.
- 12 All speakers will have the option
- of directing questions to the Illinois EPA
- panel or they can just make general comments, or
- do both. Robbins Community Power is also free
- 16 to answer questions if it is willing to do so,
- but I am not in a position to force them to do
- that this evening. Our panel members will make
- 19 every attempt to answer the questions presented,
- 20 but I will not permit the speakers to argue,
- 21 cross examine, or engage in a prolonged dialogue
- 22 with our panel.

1	For the purpose of allowing
2	everyone to have a chance to comment, I'm asking
3	that groups, organizations and associations keep
4	their questions and comments to approximately
5	ten minutes and that individuals keep their
6	comments to approximately five minutes just in
7	the interest of time and to give everyone who
8	desires to speak that opportunity. In addition,
9	I would like to avoid unnecessary repetition.
10	So if anyone before you already presented
11	testimony that is contained in your written or
12	oral comments, please skip over those issues
13	when you testify. Remember, all written
14	comments, whether or not you say them out loud,
15	will become part of the official hearing record
16	and will be considered.
17	After everyone has had an
18	opportunity to speak and provided time permits,
19	we will allow those who either ran out of time
20	during their initial comments or have additional
21	comments to speak.
22	There are some registration cards

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on the table that you can fill out to indicate
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- 2 if you would like to comment tonight. As I
- 3 mentioned before, anyone who fills out one of
- 4 those cards will also receive a letter
- 5 announcing the Illinois EPA's decision. That
- 6 letter will also direct you to the Web site
- 7 where you can retrieve all of the details,
- 8 including the Illinois EPA's Responsiveness
- 9 Summary. The Illinois EPA's Responsiveness
- 10 Summary will attempt to answer all the relevant
- and significant questions raised at this hearing
- or submitted to me prior to the close of the
- 13 comment period. The written record in this
- matter will close on May 8, 2008. Therefore, I
- will accept all written comments as long as they
- are postmarked by midnight on May 8, 2008.
- During the comment period all
- relevant comments, documents or data will also
- 19 be placed into the hearing record as exhibits.
- 20 Please send all written documents or data to my
- 21 attention at the following address: Kent Mohr,
- 22 M-o-h-r, Hearing Officer, Illinois Environmental

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1 Protection Agency, 1021 North Grand Avenue East,
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- P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794.
- 3 That address is also listed on the public notice
- 4 for the hearing tonight.
- 5 For anyone wishing to make comments
- 6 or ask questions tonight, I want to remind you
- 7 that we have a court reporter here taking a
- 8 verbatim record of these proceedings for the
- 9 purpose of making our administrative record.
- 10 For Kathy's benefit, please keep the general
- 11 background noise level in this room to a minimum
- so she can hear everything that is said. Also,
- please keep in mind that any comments from those
- other than the person at the microphone will not
- 15 be recorded by the court reporter and only act
- 16 as a disruption. This rule applies not only
- when audience members are speaking but also when
- 18 the panel from the Illinois EPA is speaking.
- 19 When it is your turn to speak, please speak
- 20 clearly and slowly into the microphone so she
- 21 can understand what you are saying. Also, when
- you begin to speak, please state your name, and

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1 if applicable, any governmental body,
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- 2 organization, or association that you represent.
- 3 Also for the benefit of the court reporter, we
- 4 will ask that you spell your last name. People
- 5 who have requested to speak will be called upon
- 6 in the order they registered to make a
- 7 statement.
- 8 Before we start with Illinois EPA's
- 9 presentation, I would like to record a number of
- 10 preliminary documents into the official record
- 11 as exhibits.
- 12 I would like to record as Exhibit
- No. 1 a copy of the notice of public hearing.
- Exhibit No. 2 is a copy of the
- 15 project summary.
- 16 Exhibit No. 3 is a copy of the
- draft construction permit for Robbins Community
- 18 Power.
- 19 Exhibit No. 4 is a pamphlet
- 20 generated and prepared by Robbins Community
- 21 Power regarding the proposed project as I
- 22 referenced earlier. It's entitled it's a New

- 1 Day in Chicago Southland.
- 2 Exhibit No. 5 is Robbins Community
- 3 Power's project overview dated April 8, 2008.
- 4 This is the PowerPoint presentation that RCP,
- or Robbins Community Power, will be putting up
- 6 on the overhead projector during their
- 7 presentation.
- 8 And Exhibit No. 6 is from a
- 9 gentleman named Dean Koldenhoven. I apologize
- if I didn't pronounce your last name correctly.
- It is an article appearing to be from the Daily
- 12 Southtown Press dated August 24, 2007, entitled
- Wood-Burning Incinerator Offers Hope for
- 14 Robbins' Future.
- Now I will ask the Illinois EPA
- staff here today to introduce themselves and
- 17 make their presentation.
- 18 MR. SMET: Good evening. My name is
- Bob Smet, and I am a permit engineer in the
- 20 Illinois EPA's Bureau of Air. I will be giving
- 21 you a brief description of the project.
- 22 Robbins Community Power LLC has

1 proposed to reactivate the former Robbins 2 Resource Recovery facility as a wood-fired power 3 plant, burning wood as fuel. The two existing combustors at the site would burn wood fuel to 4 5 provide up to 55 megawatts of electricity to the 6 grid. The project requires a permit from the 7 Illinois EPA because of its emissions. 8 control emissions, the boilers are equipped with 9 selective noncatalytic reduction systems for 10 nitrogen oxides, scrubbers for sulfur dioxide, 11 and baghouses for particulate matter. Oxidation 12 catalyst systems would also be installed to enhance control of carbon monoxide. 13

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The two existing boilers at the facility are circulating fluidized bed boilers and can burn wood fuel. The wood fuel may be supplemented with other biomass fuels such as switchgrass and corn stover. In addition to wood fuel and other biomass, natural gas would be used as the startup fuel.

Robbins Community Power will be allowed to burn wood as the primary fuel. This

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1 wood fuel would include green wood from tree
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- 2 trimmings and removal of trees. The wood fuel
- 3 would also include clean wood from manufacturing
- 4 operations and construction and demolition
- 5 debris. Treated wood, including railroad ties
- 6 and utility poles, cannot be used as wood fuel.
- 7 If a fuel supplier handles mixed wood, the clean
- 8 wood fuel for the plant would have to be
- 9 separated from the mixed wood stream.
- To ensure that only clean wood fuel
- is burned, Robbins Community Power proposed and
- must adhere to a wood fuel quality control plan
- for the wood fuel for the boilers. If you have
- a copy of the permit, attachment 3 will go into
- more detail about that. Since the plant will be
- receiving wood fuel from several fuel suppliers,
- these suppliers must be preapproved by Robbins
- 18 Community Power and operate pursuant to a fuel
- supply agreement with them. These agreements
- spell out the requirements for the wood fuel
- 21 that the supplier would provide.
- 22 At the plant, Robbins Community

1 Power must ensure that each truckload of wood

- 2 meets the specifications laid out in the wood
- 3 fuel quality control plan. If a truckload of
- 4 wood is contaminated with waste wood, Robbins
- 5 Community Power must reject that shipment.
- 6 Because waste would not be allowed
- 7 to be burned in the boilers, under this permit,
- 8 the boilers would not be subject to rules for
- 9 incinerators. As boilers, they will be subject
- 10 to the federal performance standards for steam
- 11 generating units.
- 12 The power plant will not be a major
- 13 source under the federal rules for the
- 14 prevention of significant deterioration.
- 15 However, the plant will be a new major source
- 16 under Illinois' rules for major stationary
- sources construction and modification, since
- 18 permitted annual emissions of nitrogen oxides
- 19 would be in excess of 100 tons per year. As a
- 20 consequence, the project will be subject to the
- 21 lowest achievable emission rate for nitrogen
- 22 oxides and must be accompanied by offsets. The

1 boilers will be using selective noncatalytic

- 2 reduction in order to achieve the lowest
- 3 achievable emission rate for nitrogen oxides.
- 4 Robbins Community Power will be obtaining the
- 5 required offsets from Corn Products
- 6 International, located in Bedford Park. In
- 7 2006, Corn Products made a very large net
- 8 reduction in nitrogen oxides emissions by the
- 9 installation of a boiler that replaced three
- 10 existing boilers. The offsets that Robbins
- 11 Community Power will be obtaining represent
- 12 about 12 percent of the net reduction in
- emissions achieved by Corn Products.
- 14 As a new solid fuel-fired power
- plant, Robbins Community Power would be subject
- 16 to the federal Acid Rain program. The Illinois
- 17 EPA is also proposing to issue an Acid Rain
- 18 permit that would require Robbins Community
- 19 Power to acquire SO2 allowances for the plant's
- 20 actual emissions of sulfur dioxide.
- 21 The Illinois EPA has reviewed the
- 22 application submitted by Robbins Community Power

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and has determined that it complies with
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- 2 applicable state and federal requirements. The
- 3 conditions of the permit require that Robbins
- 4 Community Power adhere to the wood fuel quality
- 5 control plan for the wood fuel. The conditions
- of the draft permit would also set limitations
- on, and requirements for, operation of the
- 8 boilers. The permit would also establish
- 9 appropriate testing, monitoring, recordkeeping,
- and reporting requirements. This includes
- 11 continuous emissions monitoring for nitrogen
- oxides, sulfur dioxide and opacity, and bag leak
- detection systems on the baghouses to confirm
- proper operation to control particulate matter.
- In closing, the Illinois EPA is
- proposing to grant a permit for the proposed
- 17 Robbins Community Power project. We welcome
- 18 your comments or questions on our proposed
- 19 action. Thank you.
- MR. ROMAINE: Good evening. My name is
- 21 Chris Romaine. I'm manager of the Air
- 22 Construction Unit in the agency air permit

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1 section. I don't have a prepared statement.
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- 2 Also with us this evening at the
- 3 reception desk was Brad Frost, who is the
- 4 community relations officer for the Bureau of
- 5 Air.
- 6 MR. WIGHT: Good evening. My name is
- 7 Mark Wight. I'm the assistant counsel with the
- 8 Illinois EPA and I work with the Bureau of Land.
- 9 The Bureau of Land involvement in
- 10 this particular project is primarily an air
- 11 permit which we are discussing tonight, however,
- 12 the Bureau of Land has been involved in the
- preparation of the wood fuel quality control
- plan and evaluating the potential for any waste
- management issues that might arrive from the
- 16 acquisition of the wood fuel that Robbins plans
- 17 to use as its chief fuel.
- 18 MR. DRAGOVICH: My name is Ted
- 19 Dragovich. I'm a manager of the disposal
- 20 alternative unit in the Illinois EPA's Bureau of
- 21 Land permit section, and I'm also here to
- respond to any questions regarding the wood fuel

- 1 plan. Thank you.
- 2 MR. MOHR: Next I'd like to ask the
- 3 representatives from Robbins Community Power to
- 4 please introduce themselves and please make your
- 5 presentation.
- 6 MR. KALEBICH: Good evening, everybody.
- We want to thank the Illinois Environmental
- 8 Protection Agency for holding this meeting
- 9 tonight, this public forum to discuss the
- 10 Robbins Community Power plant, renewable power
- 11 plant project that we are developing in the
- 12 former Robbins Resource Recovery Center.
- So we are delighted to be here.
- And my name is Ed Kalebich. I am with Robbins
- Community Power, and to my right is Rich
- 16 Trzupek. He is with Mostardi Platt. I'm going
- 17 to try to get through my comments quick because
- 18 I think Rich from Mostardi Platt has most of the
- information that's going to really be applicable
- 20 to our hearing here tonight, but let me go
- 21 through kind of some very important parts of the
- 22 project itself.

1 When we talk about the project

- team, who is Robbins Community Power, or
- 3 sometimes you will hear us refer to ourselves as
- 4 RCP, Robbins Community Power, and who are some
- of our key principal members or key team
- 6 members, Sylvan Power Company is our owner of
- 7 Robbins Community Power. Our key team members
- 8 include GE Energy.
- 9 I'm going to talk a little bit
- 10 about GE Energy who is actually on-site right
- 11 now as our project manager doing our engineering
- 12 procurement and construction management, and we
- will also be working with General Electric to do
- 14 the operations or the maintenance of the plant
- as well too. So one of our key partners is GE
- 16 Energy and Citi. Citibank is our lender. So
- they are another one of our key team members of
- 18 the project.
- Other key team members include
- 20 Mostardi Platt, obviously Rich and his team from
- 21 Mostardi Platt Environmental. On the
- 22 environmental law side there's Schiff Hardin and

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1 Renee Cipriano is kind of heading up our
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- 2 environmental law side. In governmental
- 3 relations, Illinois Government Consulting, Frank
- 4 Cortese is key to kind of help us in that area.
- 5 Public relations and outreach to the community,
- 6 that's Newsmakers, Inc., and Rosemaria Genova,
- 7 and there's been a lot of other people who have
- 8 been involved. The village of Robbins and the
- 9 village of Robbins officials and the mayor have
- been very supportive as we begun to work very
- 11 hard to develop this renewable energy project.
- The next two bullets, commitment to
- the Southland and local support. We feel that
- it's very important that we are working
- 15 side-by-side hand-in-hand with the Southland.
- 16 Working side-by-side with the South Suburban
- 17 Mayors and Managers, the Chicago Southland
- 18 Economic Development Corporation, state senators
- and state reps and mayors in and around the
- 20 Robbins plant.
- We have gotten support from the
- 22 communities of Alsip and Blue Island, Cal Park,

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      Crestwood, Harvey, Midlothian, Riverdale and, of
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      course, our host community of Robbins.
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                    In addition to that, the support
      that we received is tremendous from South
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      Suburban Mayors and Managers and the Chicago
      Southland Economic Development Corporation, like
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      I said before. The Cook County Board of
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      Commissioners, and some of the commissioners are
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      here tonight, have been very supportive of our
      project as has the Illinois Municipal League.
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                    Other supporters of our project
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      include labor. Labor has been a big support of
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      our project, the Chicago Federation of Labor,
      Operating Engineers 399 and many other labor
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      groups, some of them hopefully represented here
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      tonight, have been very supportive as well too.
                    When we talk about economic
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18
      development here for this project, Robbins
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      Community Power, or Sylvan Power, are talking
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      about investing $25 million into this plant to
      startup the plant. We believe it will create
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      new employment opportunities and new tax
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1 revenues for the area which we believe are
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- 2 important; and in our conversations with the
- 3 mayor and her trustees, they believe that it's
- 4 vitally important as well too and hopefully the
- 5 mayor will talk to some of that.
- 6 The other thing that in talking to
- 7 the Southland, the mayor and other communities,
- 8 its further economic development in and around
- 9 the plant that this plant hopefully will
- 10 generate as a catalyst for other economic
- 11 development.
- 12 Public outreach. We have felt that
- public outreach is very important. We have met
- with many, many, many groups. Groups in the
- areas of local municipalities, environmental
- organizations, state and federal governmental
- agencies, media outlet and editorial boards,
- 18 neighborhood organizations, church
- 19 organizations, educational institutions,
- 20 forestry groups. And after meeting with all the
- 21 groups, the one group that we felt was important
- 22 to at least make sure that they understood what

1 we were doing here at the plant was the public

- 2 at large.
- 3 So back in November we held a
- 4 renewable energy expo and opened up the doors
- 5 for the community to come in. I believe,
- 6 Rosemaria, we had over 200 people at that event
- 7 that came in, met with the people, met with GE,
- 8 met with Steam Controls, who is our boiler
- 9 engineers, met with our environmental
- 10 consultants, met with some of our potential fuel
- 11 suppliers. Met with a lot of people just to
- 12 understand more about the project.
- So it was important on that expo
- that not only are we talking to groups but we
- 15 had the public and said to the public come on in
- and see what we are doing. So we had a very
- 17 successful day that day.
- And finally, what happens next.
- 19 Hopefully after all your comments today and
- working with the agency, that we can move on
- 21 with respect to getting our construction permit,
- 22 moving forward to do some construction with

1 their agreement and looking to be operational

- 2 maybe by the end of the fourth quarter of this
- 3 year.
- 4 We believe it's a very exciting
- 5 project. We are going to let Rich get into the
- 6 rest of our presentation, but before I do that,
- 7 I would like to thank the public that are here
- 8 today.
- 9 The public hearing process is an
- important process and when we stepped in and
- 11 started dealing with the agency from day one we
- 12 always said we wanted to have a public hearing
- process. It was all part of the planning for
- what we were doing. Not all just the other
- outreach we talked about doing and meeting with
- 16 groups and taking tours and answering questions
- and developing solutions, solutions that we
- think are vital in the marketplace, but we
- 19 thought it was important to have this public
- 20 hearing process to have everybody give a chance
- 21 to kind of speak up. So thank you, very much
- 22 for doing that.

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1 And last I want to thank, and I
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- 2 know it's a little unorthodox, but I want to
- 3 thank my wife and my son and my daughter, who's
- 4 not here today, because they are the ones that
- 5 don't see me at home all that much as part of
- 6 the project gets developed. So I know it's a
- 7 little unorthodox to do that, but it is all a
- 8 part of the process. Believe it or not, it's
- 9 all about getting things done. So Rich, all
- 10 yours.
- 11 MR. TRZUPEK: Hi. My name is Rich
- 12 Trzupek. I am the project manager for the
- environmental issues and I'm going to take you
- 14 through those environmental issues real quick.
- I am awfully proud to be part of
- 16 this project. I grew up down the street in
- 17 Hegewisch and know the far south side well and
- 18 know how many people give you a blank stare when
- 19 you say you are from the southeast side. So I'm
- 20 glad to be part of this.
- Let's start going through the
- 22 environmental. What's different? And we are

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1 not an incinerator anymore and we understand,
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- 2 you know, a lot of the issues that had happened
- 3 with the old incinerator. So we just want to
- 4 kind of contrast why if you built this plant
- from the ground up today, as a lot of people are
- 6 going with fire-powered plants, why it's
- 7 different than what happened before, before it
- 8 accepted refuse of all types with all type of
- 9 nasty things in it.
- 10 Through the agreement we worked out
- 11 with Illinois EPA and our fuel plan, we are
- 12 accepting clean wood only. And people who
- process mixed wood streams, as Mark said, are
- required to take out the clean wood, put it to
- 15 the side and that's the only thing we can take.
- 16 On the old plant process refuse, I
- heard people who, you know, wow, that was all
- 18 that machinery that ground and separated and was
- 19 handling all the things that are in a refuse
- 20 stream. We are not doing any processing in the
- 21 plant. We are taking fuel that's already been
- 22 chipped into wood chips, we are running it

- 1 through the boiler.
- The old plant had issues with lead,
- mercury, other type of toxics because that's
- 4 things you commonly find in MSW. We are
- 5 processing clean wood, so we don't have toxic
- 6 issues, which is why we are a minor source. We
- 7 are perhaps share pollutants.
- 8 Upset we are an ongoing problem.
- 9 Those of you familiar with the history of the
- 10 old incinerator know that it had a lot of
- 11 violations. The reason is because when you are
- trying to burn something like refuse where the
- 13 fuel stream is not all that consistent, it would
- 14 be like you trying to burn gasoline with water
- mixed in. Your car would sputter and pop all
- 16 the time. We have consistent fuel. Clean wood.
- We are changing the fuel system, making a
- 18 million dollar investment so that we have a
- 19 consistent stream going in, we have a consistent
- burn, and those upset issues that caused all the
- violations won't be an issue.
- 22 On the left we have the

1 incinerator, on the right we have what is a new

- 2 wood-fired boiler/power plant. And wood-fired
- 3 power plants are more and more an important
- 4 resource across the country, it's not just us.
- 5 It's a source of renewable energy. Wood is one
- 6 way to store the energy from the sun and we are
- 7 basically recovering that solar energy stored.
- 8 It's greenhouse gas negative. And I'm sure most
- 9 of you know that greenhouse gases are a concern
- 10 today. By keeping this wood out of landfills
- 11 where a lot of it must go, we actually reduce
- 12 greenhouse gases. We avoid landfill use. Green
- power renewable energy wood is the second
- 14 biggest source in the United States right behind
- 15 hydro. So it's a very important source and we
- are not the only ones doing it. There's over a
- hundred wood-fired power plants in the United
- 18 States and a lot more coming.
- We have upgraded controls for all
- the pollutants you see there. And I think Bob,
- when he went through the project summary,
- 22 described them.

1 All together we are making a total

- 2 investment in this plan of over 25 million.
- 3 That's on top of that original \$400 million
- 4 resource that was built to benefit the
- 5 Southland, to benefit the community of Robbins,
- 6 and our intent is to put more into that to make
- 7 it even better, make it state-of-the-art once
- 8 again and get it back up and running.
- 9 Water management. Reverse osmosis,
- 10 I'm sure the word on the tip of everybody's
- 11 tongue, is just a form of -- it's a
- 12 state-of-the-art way to manage the water and
- 13 clean the water that we use. We won't be
- storing any chemicals on-site for any water
- management system. We won't be taking any water
- 16 from the Cal Sag. We won't be dumping any water
- into the Cal Sag. We will strictly be using
- 18 municipal water. And we have cooling towers on-
- 19 site to manage the heat that comes off of the
- 20 system.
- Going above and beyond. We really
- have gone above and beyond what is required for

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1 a project like this; and as a consultant who's
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- 2 been involved in a lot of projects, I don't see
- 3 a lot of my clients doing this. We did
- 4 dispersion modeling to see the effect on the
- 5 community. For the type of permit we had that
- 6 wasn't a requirement; we thought it was the
- 7 right thing to do. And we submitted that and
- 8 the EPA accepted it. We installed controls such
- 9 as a CO catalyst that wasn't required that went
- above and beyond what the rules themselves
- 11 require.
- This public hearing itself, we
- 13 requested it. For the type of permit we had, it
- wasn't required that we request this public
- hearing, but one thing we wanted to make sure,
- 16 even though we are not a waste plant any more,
- 17 we all know that waste facilities have to have a
- public hearing. A PSD minor source doesn't have
- 19 to have a public hearing. But we wanted to make
- 20 sure we gave the public a chance to participate.
- 21 A wood fuel quality control plan.
- We voluntarily said we don't want railroad ties.

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1 We don't want treated or pressurized wood. We
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- 2 only want to have clean wood coming to our
- 3 facility.
- We also have asked biomass to be
- 5 included in our fuel quality control plan. We
- 6 think biomass, things like switchgrass, corn
- 7 stover, are a part of the future. Now we can't
- 8 burn -- nobody can really burn with the
- 9 technology right now a hundred percent of things
- 10 like switchgrass because it had heavier
- 11 particulate. There's more particulate than that
- in clean wood. But we wanted to be able to mix
- that in at reasonable percentages and start to
- 14 utilize and be part of the future of using that
- 15 kind of source.
- Just a couple ideas of what the
- impact on the community because I think people
- in the community that's something you always
- 19 ask. What's the impact of the emissions. We
- 20 can show you this for any type of pollutants,
- 21 I'll give you a couple of examples. For
- 22 particulate, the standard is that big blue bar

1 in the box. So that's what EPA defines clean

- 2 air. If you are bigger than that, then the air
- 3 in your neighborhood is dirty. The red bar that
- 4 says background is the data from the closest EPA
- 5 monitor to Robbins. I believe for particulates
- 6 in Alsip. So that is what the air is like right
- 7 now as far as particulate. And you can see it's
- 8 much lower than the standard. And then all the
- 9 way on the right, that little waver of yellow,
- is our maximum contribution to the air quality
- in the community.
- We can see the same thing for SO2.
- 13 Again, the standard on the left, background on
- the right, our contribution. And in fact, for
- all pollutants, our contribution is small that
- it's typically defined as insignificant by EPA
- 17 rules.
- That's really it. I'm sure you
- 19 will have questions. We will try to respond. I
- 20 know the agency will respond. And again, on
- 21 behalf of myself and Ed, we thank you for
- coming.

- 1 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- We will now take comments and
- 3 questions from the public. We will start with
- 4 Mayor Irene Brodie. Mayor, you have the floor.
- 5 MAYOR BRODIE: I thank all of you for
- 6 coming. I'm sure you are here to help Robbins
- 7 move forward.
- 8 One of the things I want to start
- 9 out by saying though is that I have lived in
- 10 Robbins for many, many years. So I think it's
- important that all of our people who are here
- 12 tonight at least know something about our
- background who have been in our community for
- many, many years.
- 15 My husband was the first principal
- of this building except it wasn't this big then,
- it was a little building. But I just want you
- 18 to know that this whole area has said a lot to
- me as a person living here and we have worked
- 20 hard, very hard to bring our community up to
- 21 speed, and haven't always had a lot of support
- but we have continued and I'm the kind of person

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1 who won't stop. Over and beyond my just
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- 2 teaching school here for ten years, I taught at
- 3 the Bridgeview high, they asked me to come there
- 4 and teach for four years. And later the college
- 5 was getting ready to begin, Moraine Valley. I
- 6 was asked to come and help write the whole 26 of
- 7 us wrote all of the courses, and I was one of
- 8 those persons. And I happen to be a dean at
- 9 Moraine for 32 years.
- I think it's important that you
- 11 know that we are not just people running around
- 12 here like rats. We know what we are about. We
- know what we are working hard for and we are
- about to reach those goals, and we are very
- 15 happy that many of you have come to our rescue
- and have come to us to say that you are doing a
- job with your community and I have a good thing
- here I'm supposed to be saying but I'm not
- 19 looking at it yet. I'll look at it at a certain
- 20 point.
- 21 Another thing we know we have run
- into it's been how many people do we have in

- 1 Robbins. Well, so far we are a little over
- 2 6,000 but when we finish with all these houses
- 3 we are now having put through, probably going to
- 4 have about 8 or 9,000 at the next time we have a
- 5 census taken, and that's just the beginning.
- 6 Because we have determined ourselves that we are
- 7 going to make it happen in our town and we are
- 8 happy you all have come. I know you are going
- 9 to help us, and I'm going to tell all the staff
- 10 members in the back there we are next thing is
- 11 we are looking at the fact that the group, the
- 12 company who is now running the Robbins Community
- Power is also allowing us to have educational
- scholarships again. The previous group did the
- same thing and this group has followed along
- with that thing of having us educate our kids in
- 17 Robbins and I, myself, helped with this also,
- 18 helping them. I'll never be a rich woman but
- 19 I'll tell you one thing, I'm a happy woman
- 20 because I know I have been struggling for our
- 21 community for so many years. I have been here
- since 1954 and ain't tired yet. Seriously, I am

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1 for real and most of our -- all of our people
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- 2 who work with us are for real and we are just --
- I keep on saying, I'm glad you came. I hope you
- 4 have come to say we are doing a great job.
- 5 Nobody is even smiling. Not everybody has come
- 6 to say great, what you are doing in Robbins.
- 7 Anyway, we are continuing with
- 8 Robbins. We are looking also at the fact that
- 9 as we opened up and have this project begin it
- means more jobs for our people. It also means
- 11 that our people can begin looking forward to a
- 12 better day in this town. We have come from a
- renaissance. We are in a renaissance and we are
- also looking at the fact that we can move
- 15 forward in this renaissance because we started
- 16 all of this with little to nothing and we just
- decided that we could do it and we have done it.
- Now I'd like to say also we have
- 19 here our trustees and we have our city clerk.
- Would our city clerk please stand, Pamela
- 21 Bradley, and our trustees, Mr. Will Carter who
- is our mayor pro temp, and we have Mr. Richard

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1 Williams who is the one who does all the
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- 2 carrying back and forth the information for our
- 3 project. He is the one. Then we have Lynnie
- 4 Johnson, who is also one of our trustees, been
- 5 with us for many years. Tyrone Haymore,
- 6 trustee, also been with us a number of years.
- 7 Chantell, here tonight? Probably had other
- 8 things to do tonight. And Tyrone Ward, another
- 9 trustee. Thank you. And former trustee, the
- man who has allowed us to come in this building,
- is Mr. Wright back in the corner up there. We
- thank him very much for allowing us to use this
- place, and we thank you very much.
- Did I miss anybody? Oh, I'm
- supposed to also introduce all of our state
- dignitaries and the county ones and whatever
- 17 else ones we have here. We have first we have
- the state officials. Do we have any present
- 19 here tonight? They have been coming during the
- 20 day so they have been here with us off and on.
- 21 County officials. Would you all
- 22 stand county officials, and give us your name so

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1 we be sure they get it right.
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- 2 MS. SIMS: Commissioner Debra Sims,
- 3 Fifth Cook County district. You are in my
- 4 district now.
- 5 MS. MURPHY: Cook County Commissioner
- 6 Joan Murphy, 6th district, next-door neighbor.
- 7 MAYOR BRODIE: Thank you. Any
- 8 municipal officials other than the ones we just
- 9 covered?
- 10 Anyone from our staff here? I
- 11 think I saw some here. Stand up. That's one of
- our commissioners. I get them all mixed up.
- Weren't there others here, too? And I see you
- 14 back there in the back. He knows who I'm
- 15 talking about with the glasses.
- 16 Park district board officials, are
- 17 they here tonight? Park district board
- 18 officials here in Robbins.
- I want to say that as we move
- 20 forward with our project, the park district will
- also be one to be included in having money
- coming to them to change things in Robbins.

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1 They have been working hard with it and they
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- will be able to get money. They will
- 3 automatically get money because you all have to
- 4 pay your taxes. (Indicating.) You are not the
- 5 ones. Ed.
- 6 And finally, of course, school
- 7 board officials. School board. Not just the
- 8 principal, the superintendent of this area,
- 9 again, Mr. Wright in the corner over there. He
- 10 is the superintendent of District 143 and a
- 11 half, and we thank him. Anyone else I have
- 12 skipped over?
- Thank you, much. And thank you
- 14 all. I didn't know you were all from
- 15 Springfield.
- MR. MOHR: Thank you, Mayor.
- 17 The next comment will be from Miss
- 18 Tawny Smith from state representative William
- 19 Davis's office, East Hazel Crest.
- MS. SMITH: Good evening. My name is
- 21 Tawny Smith. I'm the district administrator for
- 22 state Representative William Davis.

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1 Unfortunately, he was not able to be here this
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- 2 evening because they are in session in
- 3 Springfield.
- 4 Representative Davis has been a
- 5 major supporter of this project from the start.
- 6 He believes this venture offers economic benefit
- 7 to the village of Robbins and would generate
- 8 employment for the residents of the village and
- 9 the surrounding area.
- 10 Representative Davis will continue
- 11 to support Robbins Community Power as it works
- to become the first wood-burning plant in the
- 13 Chicago area. Thank you.
- MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- The next comment will be from Jack
- 16 Benz, boilermakers.
- 17 MR. BENZ: Jack Benz, B-e-n-z. I just
- 18 wanted to comment. I have worked in the power
- 19 plant. I have worked in the boilermakers for
- 40 years, and I seen the technology change and I
- 21 think it's no harm to the people of the area and
- I have lived here probably 38 years in the

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1 surrounding area. Thank you.
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- 2 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- The next comment will be from Bruce
- 4 Horigan.
- 5 MR. HORIGAN: I'll pass at this moment.
- 6 MR. MOHR: Next we have Robert
- 7 Schwartz.
- 8 MR. SCHWARTZ: My name is Robert
- 9 Schwartz. And I represent members of the
- 10 boilermakers union also.
- I respectfully request that IEPA
- grant the appropriate permits to operate the
- Robbins Community Power center. The operation
- of the facility will not only provide jobs, but
- more important, will burn clean fuel that will
- otherwise be discarded. It will generate
- 17 electricity to help provide a reliable source of
- 18 electricity for our communities so vital to our
- daily needs. It will provide renewable source
- of energy. It will provide a revenue source to
- our area municipalities, fire districts, school
- districts, so that they may provide the much

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1 needed services to the residents they respond
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- 2 to.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunity to
- 4 speak on such an important project that will
- 5 truly benefit the environment and the community.
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 MR. MOHR: Just a reminder. When you
- 8 come up to speak, please spell your last name
- 9 for the court reporter's convenience. Thank
- 10 you.
- 11 The next comment will be from Mike
- 12 Scholefield, Chicago Southland Economic
- 13 Development Corporation.
- 14 MR. SCHOLEFIELD: Good evening. Thank
- 15 you for the opportunity to be here. Evening,
- 16 Mayor. How are you tonight?
- 17 S-c-h-o-l-e-f-i-e-l-d.
- 18 The Chicago Southland Economic
- 19 Development Corporation is a 501c3 not-for-
- 20 profit organization dedicated to the promotion
- of the economic vitality of the south and
- 22 southwest suburbs of Chicago. CSEDC is

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1 comprised of public and private organizations,
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- 2 agencies, businesses and institutions located in
- 3 over 70 communities.
- 4 CSEDC has been a partner with the
- 5 village of Robbins since the initiation of
- 6 discussions of a wood chip-fueled power plant in
- 7 2002. At that time, CSEDC formed an energy
- 8 committee to pursue the project. Extensive time
- 9 and effort in support of an environmentally-
- sound, economically feasible, market-proven
- facility provided the committee an unwavering
- 12 mandate to assist the village in securing 21st
- century energy technology as a foundation for
- public and private investment in the community.
- 15 CSEDC has been at the table with
- Robbins Community Power team since its inception
- 17 and will continue to support economic
- development initiatives within the vicinity of
- 19 the power plant:
- To assist in brokering
- 21 plant-generated electricity;
- To support the Calumet River

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1 Corridor Council and the six municipalities it
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- 2 comprises;
- To advocate for state-of-the-art
- 4 energy production in the region;
- 5 To market for high-end businesses
- 6 utilizing electricity, steam and hot water in
- 7 their processes to locate in proximity to the
- 8 plant; and finally,
- 9 To continue teaming with the
- village of Robbins in support of its economic
- 11 agenda.
- 12 As chairman of the Chicago
- 13 Southland Economic Development Corporation, and
- on behalf of its members and affiliates, I
- wholeheartedly endorse and support the issuance
- of the construction and related permits to
- 17 Robbins Community Power, Robbins, Illinois.
- 18 Thank you for the opportunity.
- MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- Next comment will be from Syed
- 21 Hasan.
- 22 MR. HASAN: My name is Syed Hasan. I'm

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1 shift supervisor with Robbins Community Power.
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- 2 This power good for the community and good for
- 3 around the area and no harm. Thank you, very
- 4 much.
- 5 MR. MOHR: The next comment will be
- 6 from Edith Makra.
- 7 MS. MAKRA: Good evening. That's
- 8 Makra, M-a-k-r-a.
- 9 I'd like to thank the IEPA, Robbins
- 10 Community Power, and especially the community of
- 11 Robbins for hosting this public hearing and I'm
- 12 pleased to see the turnout, quite a few folks
- 13 here.
- 14 I'm with the Morton Arboretum in
- 15 Lisle, Illinois. We are actually a tree museum,
- which promote a greener, healthier, more
- beautiful world through outreach, education,
- 18 research and collections of trees. My job is
- 19 community trees advocate, and I work with
- 20 communities throughout the Chicagoland area to
- 21 assist them in managing their public trees. I
- 22 try to help communities with all kinds of urban

- 1 forestry issues.
- 2 One of the most significant threats
- 3 that our region is facing right now with trees
- 4 is the emerald ash borer. This exotic insect
- 5 has been found in Michigan in 2002 and since
- 6 that time has killed approximately 25 million
- 7 trees and is now present in 6 states.
- In 2003, we began planning in
- 9 Illinois to be ready for this insect and to be
- 10 prepared for losing as many as 20 percent of the
- 11 Chicago regions trees which are our estimates to
- 12 be the ash trees present.
- In 2002, the emerald ash borer
- readiness planning team developed a plan and
- identified the need for efficient, sound
- 16 utilization of the large amount of wood debris
- that we anticipate from dead and dying trees and
- with the identification of that wood utilization
- 19 team, we knew that in the Chicago region we did
- 20 not have access to a wood-burning power plant as
- 21 they do in Michigan to help them manage the
- 22 emerald ash borer waste. And that's in Flint,

1 Michigan. We have been in consultation with

- 2 them.
- 3 Then in 2006 the emerald ash borer
- 4 was found in the Chicago region and just in
- 5 January it was found in the south suburbs. So
- 6 this issue is imminent and we are hoping to have
- 7 ducks in a row to manage the wood debris.
- 8 The emerald ash borer readiness
- 9 team was then formed into an advisory committee
- 10 called the governors emerald ash borer science
- and management advisory panel, and I do serve on
- that panel. We also then formed a wood
- 13 utilization team to advise the science and
- advisory panel on emerald ash borer policy
- 15 particularly related to wood utilization.
- 16 The wood utilization team began
- 17 just a little more than a year ago. At this
- point we have 80 members, representatives from
- 19 land managers and I have a few of my team
- 20 members here from the village of Bolingbrook,
- 21 from the village of Hazel Crest, Homer Glen and
- then Horigan Forest Product is also a member of

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1 the team. So now quite a network looking at
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- 2 connecting up land managers who have to remove
- 3 trees when they are at the end of their useful
- 4 life, to the final product, which would be
- 5 retail customers, and try to make linkages
- 6 across the way.
- We have had great success in
- 8 high-profile public projects. We have made
- 9 baseball bats. Baseball bats are traditionally
- 10 made from ash, which is a very strong wood. One
- of the villages, village of Wilmette made bats
- which they have given to little league, they
- have given them to Senator Durbin, the folks
- 14 from Channel 5. So the bats have gotten a lot
- of splash.
- We are looking at hosting a
- furniture design show at the Morton Arboretum
- 18 called rising from the ashes and all of the
- design furniture will be made from wood from
- 20 reclaimed ash, and an essential part of this
- 21 entire spectrum of environmentally, economically
- and just plain logically sound management of

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1 these trees that we love in our urban forest is
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- 2 reclaiming timber, reclaiming all parts of the
- 3 tree including clean woody debris which we are
- 4 delighted to see utilized in terms of generating
- 5 power to the local community. So on behalf of
- 6 the wood utilization team, I heartily recommend
- 7 the issuance of the construction permit. Thank
- 8 you.
- 9 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- 10 Next comment will be from Reggie
- 11 Greenwood.
- MR. GREENWOOD: Good evening. I am
- 13 Reggie Greenwood. I work for the South Suburban
- Mayors and Managers Association. The South
- Suburban Mayors and Managers is a group
- 16 representing 42 communities in the Chicago
- 17 Southland and south Cook County. We have been
- involved in working with Ed and the Robbins
- 19 Community Power plant project for several years.
- We would like to heartily recommend
- 21 to the IEPA that they issue the necessary
- 22 permits for this important plant to become

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1 operational. We see there not only is an
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- 2 environmentally sound plan, but we see there are
- 3 a tremendous amount of economic develop
- 4 opportunities that will derive from this. We
- 5 heartily believe that the Robbins Community
- 6 Power plant is a very professional,
- 7 well-financed organization who will be capable
- 8 of operating this plant effectively.
- 9 Many of the mayors that are -- all
- the mayors of this local community support the
- 11 plant. As many of the state representatives
- 12 are, a lot of our mayors tonight are in
- 13 Springfield at a special meeting. They have
- asked me to come here and represent the mayors
- and managers and all the mayors of our
- organization again do hopefully this air permit
- 17 can be released quickly and the plant can become
- operation. And my name is Greenwood, not to be
- 19 burned at the power plant.
- MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- 21 The next comment will be from Karl
- 22 Persons.

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1 MR. PERSONS: I'm Karl Persons,
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- 2 P-e-r-s-o-n-s, from the village of Hazel Crest.
- 3 The mayor wanted to be here tonight
- 4 to lend his support to this project as well but
- 5 unfortunately he is conducting a village
- 6 trustees meeting. So I'm here in his stead.
- 7 But the village of Hazel Crest is
- 8 very pleased that the Robbins facility is
- 9 reopening and as an environmentally-friendly
- 10 utility and bringing, you know, new jobs and so
- forth to the Southland region and we are very
- 12 supportive of it, and we urge the Illinois EPA
- 13 to issue the permits.
- MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- The next comment is from Beryl
- 16 Richardson.
- 17 (No response.)
- 18 Okay. The next comment will be
- 19 Mike Janecek.
- 20 MR. JANECEK: My name is Mike Janecek,
- J-a-n-e-c-e-k. I live on the south side of
- 22 Chicago, I'm a painter; and this morning I was

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1 painting downtown in a condo, touching them up
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- 2 so that the new owners can do their final walk
- 3 through tomorrow and so I needed to put on
- 4 booties to walk across their pristine floors.
- 5 By about quitting time when we had two more
- 6 balconies to do, we were running up the stairs
- 7 in the booties instead of taking them off so
- 8 they didn't get any aggregate or anything on
- 9 them and things were slipping. That's what I'm
- 10 worried about.
- 11 As you are taking this reused wood,
- 12 I mean the ash, the forest stuff is fabulous.
- When you are taking the reused wood, it's going
- 14 to start slipping just naturally. But
- 15 considering, and even hoping that everything
- works perfectly, and it's pristine and it's
- 17 meticulous and you are keeping track, keeping
- 18 everything clean and you do \$25 million worth of
- 19 particulate emissions controls, that's good.
- 20 But I would really like to urge the
- 21 IEPA, on 22nd Street the Fisk power generating
- is burning coal like it's 1950. I think if we

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1 are getting 55 megawatts here in Robbins, we
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- 2 should take 55 megawatts from the Fisk
- 3 generating plant because that is pumping out
- 4 coal, sulfur, lead, all of the extreme
- 5 pollutions like it's 1950 and nobody's ever
- 6 heard of global warming or air pollution. Thank
- 7 you.
- 8 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- 9 The next comment will be from Keith
- 10 Harley.
- MR. HARLEY: Good evening. My name is
- 12 Keith Harley. I'm an attorney. I work for the
- 13 Chicago Legal Clinic.
- MR. MOHR: Sir, would you spell your
- 15 last name?
- MR. HARLEY: H-a-r-1-e-y, like the
- motorcycle.
- I'm here tonight on behalf of a
- 19 group called the South Cook County Environmental
- 20 Action Coalition, SCCEAC. SCCEAC believes that
- 21 whether you are for this facility or you are
- against this facility, you want the permit to

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1 protect people. You want a permit that will
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- 2 protect the environment. And so they asked me
- 3 to read the permit and dozens of other documents
- 4 about facilities of this kind to come here
- 5 tonight and to comment on whether or not this
- 6 permit is as protective as it can be for the
- 7 people of Robbins, surrounding communities, as
- 8 protective as it can be for the environment.
- I have a few comments that I want
- 10 to make tonight. Most of what we have will be
- 11 put in written form, but some things for the
- agency to think about and for the people here to
- think about in terms of the adequacy of that
- 14 permit.
- 15 And the first thing that I want to
- bring up is that the permit is not being issued
- in a transparent fashion by the Illinois
- 18 Environmental Protection Agency. More than two
- 19 months ago SCCEAC submitted a Freedom of
- Information Act request to get the agency's
- 21 records regarding its decision-making process
- 22 about this facility.

1 The Illinois EPA acknowledged that 2 they had received that request by March 4th and 3 that they were working diligently to get the information to people so that they could take 4 5 that into consideration when they would make 6 decisions about whether to comment, how to 7 comment. That response has still not been given 8 to people who have requested that information. 9 That is not a transparent decision-making 10 That is inappropriate. process. 11 It means that all the comments that 12 are being made today are compromised because 13 members of the public have not been given access to the same information that the agency has and 14 15 the permit applicant has. 16 Second. In some very critical ways 17 if you read the permit, in some very critical ways there are big to be determined in the 18 19 permit. 20 Did you know that this facility is allowed to routinely exceed its emission 21 22 standards during periods of startup, shutdown

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1 and malfunction? All those great emission
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- 2 limits do not apply.
- 3 Do you know that the company has to
- 4 develop a plan to limit its emissions during
- 5 startup, shutdown and malfunction? Do you know
- 6 that the permit has been issued without that
- 7 plan being developed? If you read the permit,
- 8 it says the company will develop its startup,
- 9 shutdown, malfunction plan. Not that it has
- 10 developed it. Not that the agency has reviewed
- it. Not that it's available to members of the
- 12 public so that we can comment on it to make sure
- that that important exemption is not misused.
- For local residents, it's even more
- important because another to be determined is on
- something that everyone who lives near this
- facility should care about, fugitive dust. The
- 18 fugitive dust plan under the permit is to be
- 19 determined. It's not available now. We have
- 20 not been able to review it. No one has been
- 21 able to review it. That is inappropriate.
- 22 Also inappropriate within the

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1 permit is on the issue of hazardous air
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- 2 pollutants, dioxins, furans, polycyclic aromatic
- 3 hydrocarbons, benzo-a-pyrene. Some of the most
- 4 toxic substances that we know of will be emitted
- 5 in small amounts in this facility. However, it
- 6 is not clear from the permit how they will
- 7 sample to determine the actual emissions of
- 8 these highly toxic substances or how the
- 9 emissions of those substances will be monitored
- 10 on a regular basis.
- In addition, even though they have
- been very careful to monitor for the impacts of
- this facility on regional air quality, even on
- vegetation, even on animals, it is not clear
- that they have ever done an analysis of the
- 16 impact of those hazardous air pollutants on the
- 17 people who live nearest to the facility that is
- 18 modeling the impacts of hazardous air pollutants
- on the people who will have to live with this
- facility for 10, 20, 30, 40 years into the
- future, that modeling should be done for
- 22 hazardous air pollutants for the impact of this

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1 facility alone and in combination with all of
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- 2 the other facilities that are emitting those
- 3 same hazardous air pollutants to ensure that
- 4 there is not a health impact on the people that
- 5 live in Robbins and the nearby communities.
- The former facility was required to
- 7 submit excess emission reports every month.
- 8 What are excess emission reports? That is the
- 9 company explaining to the agency and then to
- 10 every member of the public whether or not they
- 11 are actually meeting their permit limits.
- 12 Trust, but verify.
- This company under the agency's
- protocol only has to submit excess emission
- 15 reports quarterly. That means that they can be
- in noncompliance with their permit for three
- months before they would even have to notify the
- agency of that noncompliance. We believe that
- as the former facility, this company should be
- 20 held to a monthly emission exceedance report
- 21 requirement.
- MR. MOHR: Mr. Harley, your five

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1 minutes is up. I'd be glad to give you some
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- 2 time at the end.
- 3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ten minutes
- 4 since he is from an organization.
- 5 MR. MOHR: You are right. I'm going to
- 6 let you proceed. That's my fault.
- 7 MR. HARLEY: If you would like to cut
- 8 me off, that would be okay too.
- 9 MR. MOHR: I don't want to cut you off.
- 10 MR. HARLEY: Thank you. I don't have
- 11 that much.
- 12 Trucks and other vehicles which are
- traveling on the streets of Robbins and nearby
- 14 community which are traveling within the
- 15 facility should be tarped to protect the release
- of materials onto the streets of Robbins, onto
- 17 the streets of nearby communities.
- There will be many residential
- 19 areas between the facility and its suppliers,
- there should be requirement that those trucks
- are tarped to prevent the release of the
- 22 material that's coming to the facility.

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1
                    It is not clear what the accident
 2
      prevention and response plan is at this
 3
      facility. There will be a storage facility
      containing a combustible material directly
 4
      across the fence line from residential
 5
      neighborhoods, yet when you read the permit, it
 6
 7
      does not contain much detail at all about the
 8
      plan that would be in place in the event that
 9
      there would be a catastrophic event. We believe
10
      that there should be a requirement for a
11
      proactive accident prevention and response plan
12
      developed in cooperation between the agency,
13
      Robbins, surrounding municipalities, and the
      plant operator.
14
15
                    Finally, the South Cook County
16
      Environmental Action Coalition is perplexed by
      the fact that this is a facility in which the
17
18
      permit says we are not burning waste, we are
19
      burning fuel. And yet the facility is allowed
      to use material which is construction and
20
      demolition debris waste. That is, there is this
21
22
       interim step of chipping it up before it comes
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1 to the facility but that is still waste
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- 2 material. It is that waste stream where you
- will have problems with lead, for example, on
- 4 that material. We believe to be consistent, the
- 5 facility should not accept construction and
- 6 demolition debris waste at a facility which it
- 7 is asserting is only burning clean fuel. I went
- 8 over my five minutes. I thank you so much.
- 9 If you have not read the permit,
- 10 please read it and I assure you, you will come
- 11 to the same conclusions that I have, that the
- 12 South Cook County Environmental Action Coalition
- has about the need for the permit to be
- 14 significantly enhanced in order for this
- facility to be the benefit that's described
- 16 without being the burden that is not being
- 17 disclosed. Thank you, very much.
- 18 MR. MOHR: Thank you, Mr. Harley.
- The next comment we have is from
- 20 Carl Landhal.
- 21 MR. LANDHAL: My name is Carl Landhal,
- 22 L-a-n-d-h-a-l. I live in Chicago in Morgan Park

- 1 just a few miles from here. I am here
- 2 representing myself and my family. My
- 3 professional background is in fossil and
- 4 renewable energy research and development.
- 5 My concern is that the applicable
- 6 regulations have been followed and are
- 7 practical, practically applied to the design of
- 8 this plant. After an opportunity to visit the
- 9 plant and look at the technical capabilities, I
- 10 believe that that practical objective can be
- 11 met, notwithstanding the details that have been
- 12 mentioned previously.
- I believe that this project will be
- beneficial to us all and is potentially far less
- environmentally a problem compared with most
- other kinds of power generation in practical and
- it would be vastly cleaner than any kind of
- 18 refuse-derived fuel combustion system and
- certainly would be significantly more desirable
- than a coal burning facility in fact.
- 21 Based on that, and the desire to
- move ahead and see things work and bring local

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1 power, hopefully the issues could be resolved,
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- and I would respectfully request that the
- 3 Illinois EPA grant the permit. Thank you.
- 4 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- 5 The next comment will be from Tim
- 6 Taylor.
- 7 MR. TAYLOR: Hello, everybody. My name
- 8 is Tim Taylor. That's spelled T-a-y-l-o-r. And
- 9 I'm a Southland resident and for the last year
- or two I have had the distinct honor and
- 11 privilege as serving as an advisor to Mayor
- 12 Irene Brodie and the village of Robbins
- 13 trustees.
- Now, I'm an engineer by education
- and actually worked in the power industry, but I
- 16 can tell you that without being biased at all,
- 17 honestly, I can tell you that Mayor Brodie and
- 18 her trustees have looked after every interest of
- 19 not only this surrounding community of the
- 20 residents of Robbins but of this entire
- 21 Southland region.
- Now clearly there is some that

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1 think that perhaps this permit shouldn't be
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- 2 issued, but I can tell you that speaking on
- 3 behalf of the village, on behalf of Mayor
- 4 Brodie, the trustees and the residents, we hope
- 5 that all of you will stand and embrace the
- 6 issuance of this permit and the operations of
- 7 Robbins Community Power. I thank you, very
- 8 much.
- 9 MR. MOHR: The next comment will be
- 10 from Tyrone Haymore.
- 11 MR. HAYMORE: Thank you. Thank you all
- 12 for coming. I'm Tyrone Haymore, H-a-y-m-o-r-e.
- I have been in Robbins all my life. I just
- celebrated by 61st birthday last month. Happy
- 15 birthday to me. Thank you.
- I'm a historian for this town and I
- 17 have meticulously been recording the history of
- 18 Robbins first industrial plant. And it has had
- 19 some troubled times getting started and we
- 20 watched it grow, prosper and then fall back down
- 21 again and now it's back up again hopefully. And
- 22 with your help we will make that come true.

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1
                    This will be truly an inspiration
      for our community, for our people who have been
 2
 3
      here for over 115 years, and it will be a great
      opportunity for us to once share in the American
 4
 5
      dream of a good job, with ownership and some
      appreciation for working hard and believing in
 6
 7
      something that is meaningful.
 8
                    So with that, we need your help and
 9
      your support and this plant, thank goodness,
10
      will be the kind of plant we dreamed of,
11
      pollutant-free and will give us all the things
12
      that should answer everybody's question.
13
                    And I often think about several
      years ago when we had a public hearing under a
14
15
      different company and I asked the question then
16
      I want to ask it now again.
                                    There's a bit of
17
      hypocrisy I think going on. If you say you are
18
      against something because it pollutes the air
19
      and then you drive an automobile here to the
20
      hearing, where do you find yourself?
21
                    Well I asked the question back
22
      then.
             How many came here on a horse? How many
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1 came here on a bicycle to this public hearing
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- 2 tonight? How many walked here tonight? We all
- 3 came in automobiles. You want to know what the
- 4 greatest polluter in the world is? The
- 5 automobiles we drive. And here's a very clean
- 6 plant that's going to do wonderful for our
- 7 community, and I think we should give it a
- 8 wholehearted support and it certainly has mine.
- 9 Thank you.
- 10 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- 11 Next speaker will be Jesse Shears.
- MS. SHEARS: I pass.
- 13 Next up will Charles Shanabruch.
- MR. SHANABRUCH: My name is Charles
- 15 Shanabruch, S-h-a-n-a-b-r-u-c-h, and I am a
- 16 member of the South Cook County Environmental
- 17 Action Committee, a board member, but I'm also
- the director of the Chicago Renewable Energy
- 19 Corporation, and I really think it's important,
- I want to support what our attorney said about
- 21 the questions about making sure that there's
- 22 monitoring but it's really the misuse of words.

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1 The misuse of words just as the president talks
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- 2 about clean air initiatives and healthy for us.
- 3 This is not renewable energy per se, it's waste.
- 4 And really if it was to be -- it should be
- 5 reused and not just burnt and there are other
- 6 sources of energy, whether it's geothermal,
- 7 wind, solar or hydro and it may be fine if trees
- 8 can't be chipped such as the ash trees but a lot
- 9 of the construction waste, really the City of
- 10 Chicago has regulations that says it has to be
- 11 recycled. This is not recycling, this is ending
- 12 the road. So language is important. Pay
- 13 attention to all the language. We will. And
- 14 thank you.
- MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- The next comment will be from Joan
- 17 Murphy.
- MS. MURPHY: My name is Joan Murphy,
- 19 M-u-r-p-h-y. And I am Cook County commissioner
- 20 for the 6th district. And I am delighted to be
- 21 here tonight for two reasons. One, last summer
- 22 at the National Association of Counties,

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1 President Todd Stroger and myself were there
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- when we were the first large -- well, actually
- 3 the second largest county in the country and the
- 4 largest county to sign on to the cool county
- 5 program, and that is to be green. And we are
- 6 green and everything that we are doing in Cook
- 7 County we are green. We are looking out for our
- 8 environment. So I am delighted to be here
- 9 tonight to speak for this plant. It's clean,
- green and is a reusable energy source and when
- 11 you read the literature, it will be explained to
- 12 you there. It's been proven as a viable source
- of power by having over a hundred wood-burning
- 14 plants already in this country and operating.
- 15 I'm sure if there was a problem, we would have
- 16 heard about that. It will help reduce our
- dependence on fossil fuel. Down with gas, up
- with wood chips. It's state-of-the-art,
- 19 pollution control equipment. Its byproducts
- 20 will make saleable usable goods: Brick, cement
- 21 and concrete. It recycles construction
- demolition materials. I'm a little concerned

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1 about that also. I think we need to make
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- 2 certain that what is being burned does not have
- 3 anything harmful in it for the emissions. It
- 4 recycles, as I said, it will help revitalize the
- 5 Southland. We need economic development here.
- 6 This is one way that we can get it. It gives
- 7 our union jobs for construction and steady
- 8 employment for the residents of the village of
- 9 Robbins and for the surrounding community.
- 10 And most important, it will finally
- 11 put to good use that white elephant that's been
- 12 sitting on Kedzie Avenue for the last many,
- many, years.
- MR. MOHR: Please hold your applause
- 15 until the end.
- MS. MURPHY: I am a neighbor and a good
- friend of the village of Robbins. I live in
- 18 Crestwood. My district office is located in
- 19 Crestwood, and I have lived in Crestwood since
- 20 1960.
- I was here when we were given all
- the promises about the last energy plant that

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went in here, and I couldn't have been happier
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- when it closed down because the odor, the smell,
- 3 the emissions were floating over because that's
- 4 the way the winds were blowing, right into my
- 5 backyard and it was horrible on some nights
- 6 about 2 o'clock in the morning you would wake up
- 7 in the summer when all your windows and doors
- 8 were opened and it was just a horrific spell and
- 9 you knew there couldn't be anything good in
- anything that could smell that bad. So I'm very
- 11 happy that this is going to be clean and green.
- 12 So I would like the EPA to take
- into consideration some of the comments that
- were made by Mr. Harley and by the other
- gentleman that came up here because some of them
- were viable points. I think that things do need
- 17 to be spelled out. I think that we need to have
- transparency and I'm sure that the EPA will have
- 19 all of that done for us and given out to us to
- 20 look at prior to any construction being built.
- 21 But thank you for your presentation, to the
- 22 power plant that gave the presentation, the EPA

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1 for holding this hearing. This has been a
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- 2 wonderful service to the people of this area.
- 3 Thank you, very much.
- 4 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- 5 The next speaker will be Dennis
- 6 Gannon.
- 7 MR. GANNON: My name is Dennis Gannon,
- 8 G-a-n-n-o-n. I serve as the president of the
- 9 Chicago Federation of Labor which represents
- some 500,000 working men and women and 300
- 11 different organizations.
- The jobs that the Robbins project
- will bring to this community, as well as to the
- labor movement in the City of Chicago and the
- 15 county of Cook during a deprived time. We are
- in a recession. Do we know that? I mean
- there's a recession happening. These are good-
- 18 paying jobs. These are good wages. They have
- 19 pensions. They have health care and they are
- 20 coming to Robbins. What's wrong with Robbins?
- 21 Robbins is a community that needs jobs like
- 22 everybody else. People in Cook County need

- 1 jobs.
- 2 Now when we talk about
- 3 partnerships, the labor movement historically
- 4 has been in partnerships with contractors,
- 5 partnerships with politicians, partnerships with
- 6 people at the county, people in office here in
- 7 Robbins, people in the state house in
- 8 Springfield and those partnerships are about
- 9 doing the right thing on behalf of our members,
- 10 but also our members live in these communities.
- 11 And this is a safe project. This
- is a project that is going to make sure that
- it's environmentally sound. These folks up
- here, that's their job. They are here to
- 15 protect us. They are here to do the right thing
- on our behalf. And I'm telling you what's wrong
- 17 with Robbins? Robbins needs the jobs. We need
- 18 the jobs in Cook County. There's going to be
- 19 permanent positions within the plant. The
- retrofit is going to bring another at least 100
- jobs, and these jobs are going to be all union
- jobs with good wages and good benefits. And

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1 majority of the folks live in these communities.
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- 2 Our union movement extends in Cook
- 3 County from one end of the county to the other,
- 4 but it just so happens that most of us are
- 5 south-siders. So this project is good for us.
- 6 We are here to ask you to grant the permit.
- 7 It's good for Robbins. It's good for organized
- 8 labor. It's good for the community. It's good
- 9 for our partners right here at the Robbins
- 10 plant, and we are for it. We want everybody to
- 11 know that. And if anybody has any questions of
- me, I'll be in the back and I'll be happy to
- 13 answer. Thank you.
- MR. MOHR: The next comment will be
- 15 from Favia. Last name is not here.
- 16 MS. FAVIA: Hi. My name is Jan Favia.
- 17 MR. MOHR: Ma'am, can you spell your
- 18 last name?
- 19 MS. FAVIA: F, as in Frank, a-v, as in
- 20 Victor, i-a, Favia.
- I am concerned. I'm from Morgan
- Park, and I was involved in the early process of

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1 the incinerator where we were all assured -- and
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- 2 commissioner from Crestwood, I thought we were
- downwind because I too at 2 o'clock in the
- 4 morning had some grave concerns as that was the
- 5 period I was raising three children. We were
- 6 assured that everything was handled and safe.
- 7 I was also involved in the process
- 8 that eventually assisted in closing down the
- 9 facility. So I'm here tonight to voice my
- 10 concerns as a neighbor, as a resident, as a
- 11 teacher. I run and operate an art school that's
- 12 at 130th and York Street, probably a couple
- miles -- well, actually less than a mile from
- 14 the incinerator.
- 15 At some point I'd like to
- 16 understand -- did I mention that I'm from the
- 17 Southwest Morton Park Civic Association; I'd
- 18 like to note that.
- 19 Some concerns. An incinerator or a
- 20 boiler. I'm going to have to understand exactly
- 21 the difference between the two and, of course,
- it won't be right now, but I'm understanding

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1 that they both burn, okay.
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- I'm also, just to note, the
- 3 daughter of a construction worker who is also a
- 4 boilermaker, so I grew up with the knowledge of
- 5 how construction works. I'm concerned. Clean
- 6 wood approved, checked, rechecked. I'm
- 7 concerned.
- As a teacher, one of my students
- 9 who's a biologist, his job last summer was on a
- 10 boat, a fishing vessel around Alaska. Although
- 11 everything is promised that we can operate in
- one particular way and we are protected by our
- agencies, his job was as a biologist to be on
- that boat to assure that the catches and all
- 15 regulations were approved.
- I would respectfully request
- 17 provisions to be made for perhaps a resident, a
- 18 concerned community activist, organizer,
- 19 neighbor, friend, to be privy and invited and,
- in fact, welcomed to examine the facility not at
- an appointed time but at an open time since we
- are neighbors and friends and everything is

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1 assured to be as it's noted, okay, safe and
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- 2 under the provisions that are noted.
- 3 So again, I would respectfully
- 4 request that someone like myself or some of the
- 5 persons with concerns like myself might be
- 6 welcomed into the plant for monitoring, testing,
- 7 or whatever would be for the well-being of the
- 8 residents. I thank you for this opportunity to
- 9 be able to voice my concerns.
- 10 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- 11 The next speaker will be Lionel
- 12 Trepanier.
- MR. TREPANIER: Good evening. Hi. My
- name is Lionel Trepanier, T-r-e-p-a-n-i-e-r.
- 15 And I appreciate this opportunity to address you
- 16 all this evening.
- 17 I also sent a Freedom of
- 18 Information request to the Illinois EPA. I sent
- my first Freedom of Information request on
- February 23rd, addressed to Brad Frost, standing
- over there in the corner. I sent in my appeal,
- having gotten no response from the Freedom of

1 Information request, on March 12th. I sent that

- 2 to Douglas Scott, head of the agency.
- I received a response from
- 4 Mr. Scott on March 18th. Mr. Scott noted that I
- 5 had asked for a copy of the permit application,
- 6 which he did not provide. He noted that I also
- 7 asked the EPA "Please let you know whatever
- 8 documents or documentation have been received or
- 9 developed and otherwise is in the relevant IEPA
- 10 file regarding this project."
- 11 So Mr. Scott's letter goes on. He
- tells me my FOIA request was not denied, and I
- might note it's been 45 days, there's been no
- 14 response. The law says 7 days for a response.
- But he informs me, the Illinois EPA is in the
- 16 process of retrieving all the records pertaining
- 17 to the Robbins project. They are retrieving
- 18 them. This effort requires a collection of
- 19 substantial number of specified records which
- 20 have not been located in the course of a routine
- 21 search. Additional efforts are being made to
- 22 locate them.

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1 This leads me to my first question.
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- 2 Tonight there was a few documents put into the
- 3 record, particularly Exhibits Nos. 4, 5, and 6.
- 4 My question: When were those documents
- 5 available to be placed into that record?
- 6 MR. ROMAINE: You asked a question.
- 7 MR. TREPANIER: I have a few questions.
- 8 I'm not giving my five minutes to you, sir. I'm
- 9 not giving the floor up.
- 10 My second question is how much
- 11 employment? I hear there's going to be
- 12 employment. How much --
- MR. MOHR: Sir, just one second.
- MR. TREPANIER: As long as you are not
- 15 taking my time.
- 16 MR. MOHR: I'm not going to take your
- 17 time. I'll give you the seconds back.
- 18 If you have a question and you
- would like to pose it to a member of the panel
- or RCP, please let us know and we will take your
- 21 questions as you have them. It's too difficult
- for us to compile a bunch of questions and then

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1 try to get back and eventually answer them. So
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- 2 I think it's most appropriate if we answer each
- 3 question as they come along. And you can have
- 4 your 10 seconds back.
- 5 MR. TREPANIER: Thank you, very much.
- 6 My other question I have is to the
- 7 Bureau of Land. I did receive four pages from
- 8 the Bureau of Land. Now the gentleman on the
- 9 table, and I'm sure he's a very nice family man,
- 10 reported the Bureau of Land was actually
- 11 reviewing this project to look at the wood
- 12 sourcing program. And if he reviewed it, why do
- we only have these four pages? What is it that
- the Bureau of Land was doing? Why is there not
- a response to this Freedom of Information Act
- 16 request?
- Well, Dr. Martin Luther King is
- really a hero, not only mine but I know for a
- 19 lot of us. And it was 40 years ago he was
- 20 killed. And he was killed standing up to
- 21 sanitation workers. Sanitation workers are on
- the edge, on the cutting edge of justice.

1 So why is this project in Robbins?

- What's wrong with Robbins? There's nothing
- wrong with Robbins. What's wrong with this
- 4 project? You eat your ice cream and dump the
- 5 container in Robbins. I tell you that's what's
- 6 wrong with this project.
- 7 This is environmental racism.
- 8 Plain and simple. You are not going to see this
- 9 stuff burning up in the suburbs on the north
- 10 side. No. It's dumped in this community. And
- I still haven't heard how many jobs there are
- 12 going to be.
- 13 He said they are up and above and
- beyond what the rules. That wasn't a meaningful
- 15 statement. Sure. They didn't have to ask for
- the public hearing, but we could have. There's
- 17 a lot of controversy about this project. The
- public hearing would be ordered. So for the
- incinerator company, they come up here and they
- 20 tell you oh, we are going up and above. We
- asked for this public hearing. They speeded the
- 22 project along by asking for this hearing.

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1
                    Now, I am very concerned about this
 2
      demolition debris. They are going to take this
 3
      wood from far away places with no training
      specified for the people who are looking at this
 4
 5
      wood. And it's only a visual look. They are
      supposed to be able to recognize contaminated
 6
 7
      wood by looking at it. Now these are people
 8
      that have a monetary interest in sending that
 9
      wood to this incinerator. People at the
10
      incinerator have a monetary interest in burning
11
      that contaminated wood. And when it arrives
12
      here it's in little chips, all right? So when
      it comes up here, they are supposed to look in
13
      the bin and look at the photograph. Does this
14
15
      look like a wood chip? Yes, it looks like a
16
      wood chip.
17
                    Well, what about lead?
                                            The
      gentleman said he doesn't have a problem with
18
19
      lead. I can tell you he doesn't live in this
20
      neighborhood. I looked on Page 59 of this
21
      permit. I look at lead and I see .11 tons per
22
      year per boiler. Okay. He doesn't have a
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1 problem with lead. I have a problem with lead.
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- 2 I have a problem with my kids getting
- 3 contaminated with this lead, and these people
- 4 stand up here and tell us that there's no lead
- 5 coming out. Is that what he said? Did he say
- 6 there was no lead? You should take a look at
- 7 Page 59.
- I think we heard Mr. Harley
- 9 referring to some of this stuff, dioxins. But
- 10 the other names, I look at the ones I recognize:
- 11 Arsenic, lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium.
- 12 Environmental racism of documents some 30 years
- ago and it's inspired an environmental justice
- 14 movement.
- I stand with the people in Robbins.
- 16 I live in Robbins. I ride my bike in Robbins.
- I walk up and down the canal. I walked most of
- 18 the way here. It's true, I arrived in a car,
- 19 but I walked most of the way and then a friend
- 20 picked me up; it was raining.
- 21 Well I appreciate you hearing me.
- I think you can see I'm a bit emotional about

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1 this. Well I was at that incinerator when they
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- 2 ran it in garbage. You know they were lying and
- 3 cheating this Illinois EPA. They told us that
- 4 incinerator was fine. It wasn't until the
- 5 USEPA came in there and we got a disclosure they
- 6 were violating their permit every day. Every
- 7 day. We were supposed to have a monitor in the
- 8 Blue Island library; that didn't work. It
- 9 wouldn't work. And the EPA would not get up and
- 10 enforce the law. I have zero trust for the
- 11 Illinois EPA and that comes from years of
- 12 experience.
- So if you think this Illinois EPA
- is up here to protect you, you are going to have
- 15 a rude awakening. And maybe you won't see it.
- 16 Maybe your children will feel it, that bump in
- the back of their neck, that pain they get in
- 18 their side. Or the pain you get in your side
- when you need to have that lump removed out of
- 20 your liver.
- 21 So I sure appreciated the
- 22 opportunity to address you tonight. I don't

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1 think that this permit should be issued as it's
```

- 2 in a draft form. I think to leave the wood
- quality program up to actually the incinerator
- 4 company, people have a monetary interest to pass
- 5 contaminated wood through, that is ridiculous.
- 6 It's absurd. It's absurd to think that you can
- 7 set up a monetary interest for somebody to
- 8 violate the rules and then have
- 9 self-enforcement.
- 10 Thanks for your time. And I wish
- 11 you all well, you know, with your families. I'm
- 12 upwind of this thing so I'm not done.
- I think this public hearing is a
- 14 farce for them to sit on these documents in the
- 15 face of people asking for them months ago.
- 16 Months. February 23rd I asked for these
- documents. And today they come up with oh, we
- are putting them in the file. And they are
- 19 laughing at us. They are laughing at each one
- 20 of us.
- MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- The next comment will be from Tom

- 1 Saniat.
- 2 MR. SANIAT: Howdy. My name is Tom
- 3 Saniat, S-a-n-i-a-t. I just tuned into this in
- 4 the last couple of days. And the thing I
- 5 noticed right here on the front page it says
- 6 public comment period closes May 8th this year,
- 7 30 days from now. And all of the objections
- 8 that you heard, the attorney, and Mr. Trepanier,
- 9 and the lack of information that was available,
- maybe it should be extended, but then there's
- also the possibility of a court order with a
- 12 stay. And I didn't read this but is there a
- 13 startup date?
- MR. MOHR: Is there a startup date for
- 15 what, sir?
- MR. SANIAT: For what we are talking
- 17 about?
- 18 MR. MOHR: For the plan?
- 19 MR. SANIAT: Correct.
- MR. ROMAINE: We have not made a final
- 21 decision on the permit application. If Robbins
- 22 Community Power would like to give some comments

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on their quote for a schedule, that would be up
```

- 2 to them.
- 3 MR. KALEBICH: I think I mentioned
- 4 during my comments, Chris, that we are hoping to
- 5 be operational by the end of the year. So that
- 6 was my comments earlier today.
- 7 MR. SANIAT: How long will it take from
- 8 the time, you know, that this permit -- when
- 9 would the permit be approved of after this
- 10 closing date, how long until the permit gets
- 11 approved or stay?
- 12 MR. ROMAINE: As I said, this is simply
- a proposed permit. Obviously we have said we
- have reviewed the application, we believe it
- meets the standards for issuance of the permit.
- 16 We would have to review the comments that are
- 17 received after the close of the comment period.
- Depending on the nature of those comments, a
- 19 final decision could be made relatively quickly
- or it could take a while.
- 21 So final decision could be made in
- 22 a couple of weeks or a couple of months

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depending on what the nature of the written
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- 2 comments that we receive and how we respond to
- 3 some of the oral comments that have been heard
- 4 tonight.
- 5 MR. SANIAT: Some time I think it was
- 6 about 1968 there was a play named Hair. You
- 7 guys old enough to know that? There was
- 8 something about air pollution, carbon dioxide,
- 9 carbon monoxide, sulfuric, you know, it's
- 10 40 years later, you know, same time Martin
- 11 Luther King, where we come, you know. Maybe we
- should just think about how much we don't know.
- 13 Workup some questions and send it in. If it
- extends the time, at least we will have a good
- decision, you know. It's not make a mistake and
- 16 say well, I'm sorry, you know. Your kids and
- 17 you seen what went wrong before and what's going
- on now. Not counting war, which is totally
- 19 stupid. Well, I guess it's profitable.
- 20 Oh, and is there going to be -- how
- 21 much is the electric going to cost, you know?
- Here's one for you. Is the corporation going to

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1 get a diversion credit for taking the wood out
```

- of the landfill? I think it might be, I don't
- 3 know, \$265 a ton.
- 4 MR. MOHR: Is that a question?
- 5 MR. SANIAT: Yes. Is there going to be
- 6 a diversion credit available?
- 7 MR. ROMAINE: In general terms we
- 8 understand that there are various benefits from
- 9 having this facility that would result for
- 10 Robbins Community Power. There certainly is an
- initiative to use renewable resources under
- 12 Illinois law. This would count as renewable
- resource so there could be certain benefits
- under applicable energy regulations, however,
- that is not a fact that is relevant to the
- 16 Illinois EPA's determination.
- 17 MR. SANIAT: Okay. Will the state and
- 18 the county -- are people in the state and the
- 19 county going to be paying taxes to pay the
- 20 company to burn wood so they can charge us for
- 21 electric?
- MR. ROMAINE: I'm not aware of the

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1 economic details of the project. Our review is
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- 2 purely looking at the environmental regulations,
- 3 whether this project would comply with
- 4 applicable air pollution control regulation.
- 5 MR. SANIAT: The only question I got is
- for the people that they actually sit down and
- 7 think about it because it's like a derringer to
- 8 play Russian roulette with, and the question is:
- 9 Do you want to pick up the gun? I mean later
- 10 you can always pick up the gun and take out the
- bullet and start over again. I hope you people
- 12 make the right decision. Thank you.
- MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- 14 The next speaker will be Steve
- 15 Miller.
- 16 MR. MILLER: That's M-i-l-l-e-r. This
- is what I love about this country, a little open
- forum, everyone gets a chance. You know I have
- 19 traveled out of this country several times, and
- let me tell you it's not like this in the rest
- of the world. And I appreciate passionate
- 22 comment and all the other comments made.

```
1
                    Now I am a city forester
 2
      responsible for urban forest that's got over
 3
      53,000 trees. I'm also an International Society
      of Arbor Culture certified arborist and we were
 4
 5
      green before green was clean. I have also
      worked with Edith, and I certainly am not going
 6
 7
      to belabor her points.
 8
                    However, with this wood utilization
 9
      team, I have played only a small role in this,
10
      but we have found several ways to use the would
11
      be debris from the ash trees that looks like
12
      will be going down 12,000 of them just in my
13
      community. Everything from -- well, baseball
      bats, furniture, wood flooring. However there
14
15
      will be some unusable debris. And I believe
16
      this would be a true form of recycling if this
17
      unusable debris that couldn't stay in the
      economic chain could end up providing some
18
19
      power.
20
                    Now I have a rhetorical question.
      Does everyone like inexpensive, reliable
21
```

electricity? I know I do. Thank you.

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1 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
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- The next comment will be from Mary
- Ward.
- 4 MS. WARD: I'll waive comment.
- 5 MR. MOHR: Last comment that I have
- 6 here will be from Dean Koldenhoven.
- 7 MR. KOLDENHOVEN: Good evening. My
- 8 name is Dean Koldenhoven. I'd like to offer
- 9 some comments. I'd like to thank Mr. Mohr and
- other officials here tonight for this public
- 11 hearing.
- The village of Robbins hopefully
- will have a successful wood-burning incinerator
- that will use 350,000 tons of scrap wood per
- 15 year and that will produce at full capacity
- 16 375,000 megawatts of electricity annually, which
- 17 could be sold to industrial customers around
- 18 Robbins.
- This is exciting news for the
- village of Robbins and the Southland. Renewable
- 21 biomass fuel will be used to produce electrical
- 22 power that will be used locally.

```
1
                    General Electric has teamed up with
      the Robbins Community Power LLC to restart the
 2
 3
      Robbins incinerator, which was shut down but
 4
      fully maintained since September of 2000.
 5
                    Naturally, the state of Illinois
      will regulate all the procedures needed to make
 6
 7
      this incinerator meet today's environmental
 8
      standards. The plant's present boilers will
 9
      have to be refurbished, and pollution monitoring
      equipment will be upgraded.
10
11
                    Mayor Irene Brodie of Robbins has
12
      worked tirelessly in trying to give the people
13
      of Robbins a better community in which to live
      and enjoy a better lifestyle. There may be jobs
14
15
      available at the incinerator which the residents
16
      of Robbins could avail themselves.
17
                    The new homes that are being built
18
      in Robbins will bring new life to the village
      and the incinerator hopefully will help the
19
20
      community prosper as well.
21
                    I plead to the EPA to proceed with
22
      the permit for the full operation of this
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1 wood-burning incinerator. Thank you.
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- 2 MR. MOHR: At this time, I have no more
- 3 cards up here but if anyone else would like to
- 4 make a comment or ask a question, you are free
- 5 to do so. Please remember to spell your last
- 6 name.
- 7 MR. TANGEL: Hi. Boy, this has been a
- 8 pain for everyone here tonight. My name is Jeff
- 9 Tangel, T, as in Thomas, a-n-g-e-l. And I am
- 10 chair of the South Cook County Environmental
- 11 Action. I was here 18 years ago on March 7,
- 12 1990. I remember Mr. Haymore. I remember the
- mayor. I talked to the mayor a great deal. And
- I have a lot of respect for you and the village.
- 15 And I just want to encourage you to
- 16 encourage them to make this better. The EPA
- hasn't really done their job very well here.
- 18 You have heard the denial of the FOIA. That's
- 19 not right. Okay. That's not right. This
- 20 company could do better. Mr. Gannon, the labor
- 21 people, I support labor. What Bush has done and
- Reagan has done to the labor movement in this

- 1 country is a shame.
- 2 You guys, this can be better. You
- 3 just think the EPA is doing their job, I don't
- 4 think so. They can do better. Particularly the
- 5 permit limits for dioxin furan, got to be there.
- 6 Got to be tested for. It's important. That's
- 7 their job. Okay?
- No limits for startup, shutdowns
- 9 and malfunctions. Come on. That's
- 10 irresponsible. That's like giving your kid the
- 11 car and telling him go ahead, get some liquor,
- 12 drink. Not smart.
- Emissions. Reported quarterly.
- 14 No. Monthly. Come on? That's ridiculous.
- 15 It's a simple, fair, easily done request. Do
- 16 it.
- Tarps on trucks. Makes sense to
- 18 everyone here. Stuff's going to be flying all
- over the place. One of the biggest problems
- 20 with the garbage trucks is the street liter. We
- 21 don't want that. Tarps on trucks.
- 22 Storing wood. The incinerator

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1 caught fire twice when it was operating here.
```

- 2 Once 22 south Chicagoland fire departments had
- 3 to respond. I came down here, got sick. It was
- 4 nasty. It was horrible. Garbage isn't nearly
- 5 as combustible as wood, right? Now this is a
- 6 spontaneous combustion problem. It's right
- 7 across the street from people's houses. This
- 8 thing could take off like a huge fireball. It's
- 9 a huge problem.
- They need an emergency response
- 11 plan. They need a management plan for keeping
- this wood safe onsite so the workers, the
- labors, the people that are at that plant, the
- people that live in the community, the people
- that live in the surrounding communities, can
- 16 feel good about this project.
- 17 So ask these people to do their
- 18 job. They come to you and they give you a
- 19 proposal. Now you come back to them and you say
- okay, it sounds okay, but here's some point that
- 21 we think you should consider. I'd take those
- 22 points. Make them take those points. Make them

```
1 be responsible. They are not here at some
```

- 2 altruistic motive. They are here to make money.
- 3 They have standards that they need to meet for
- 4 you. For us. For all of us. Thank you.
- 5 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- 6 Anyone else?
- 7 MS. SIMS: Debra Sims, S-i-m-s. I'm
- 8 here to say Mayor, I support this project, but
- 9 I'm also here to say since sitting here
- 10 listening and Illinois EPA, I hope you are
- listening to the people and what they are saying
- because if you don't, this will be a problem for
- the people in this community. And that's going
- 14 to lie at your feet. They are going to hold you
- 15 accountable.
- So I hope that you will listen and
- take back all the information that the people
- are giving you today and review and if they are
- 19 asking for information, give them the
- information. Don't make it 30 days for them to
- 21 get the information. Give it to them. They
- 22 want an open process. I think the easiest way

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1 to make this work is that the process is open.
```

- 2 That way people don't have an opportunity to
- 3 challenge what you are saying. And we want this
- 4 to work. We want this to happen.
- 5 You know when you come into
- 6 Robbins, the first thing you see is this
- 7 building. It's an eyesore. The mayor, we have
- 8 worked on with some other people in the
- 9 community and some other businesses, to try to
- do something with that big white elephant out
- 11 there.
- 12 I became a commissioner 14 years
- ago and that was a problem with that building
- then and nobody wanted to do anything with it.
- 15 So let's not have that eyesore continue to be
- there. EPA, if you do your job; Ed can do a
- good job with what he has to do; Dennis can do a
- good job with what he has to do, and the people
- can come back to this room a year from now and
- say the EPA did their job, Ed did his job, and
- it's a clean energy building and it's green and
- they are doing everything that they need to do

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1 to produce energy for the village of Robbins.
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- 2 You have a response to something?
- 3 You are waiting.
- 4 MR. ROMAINE: I want to thank you for
- 5 your comments. Be assured that we listen very
- 6 carefully to all the comments that we hear that
- 7 express concerns about a proposed project.
- 8 That's why we are here tonight is to hear those
- 9 concerns expressed.
- 10 In terms of the comment that's been
- 11 brought up about the Freedom of Information Act.
- 12 I think that we have sort of a misunderstanding
- of what's been going on here. From our
- perspective, we have been dealing with this
- project in various forms in different bureaus of
- 16 the agency since 2005.
- We received a request not for the
- 18 record for the permitting proceeding, but we
- 19 received a request for all current documents in
- 20 our files involving Robbins Community Power.
- 21 Accordingly, that is a much more difficult task
- for us to assemble all those documents from the

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different departments and the individuals that
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- 2 may have been involved in different aspects of
- 3 this facility than simply saying give us a copy
- 4 of the air permit application. Give us a copy
- of the draft permit. Give us the documents that
- 6 are specifically going to the proceeding that we
- 7 are hearing tonight.
- 8 So the reason that we were unable
- 9 to respond quickly was due to the magnitude of
- 10 the request that was received, and we are trying
- 11 to respond to that request because, in fact,
- 12 those documents are in our possession in various
- offices, but it is not something that can be
- done readily.
- MS. SIMS: Can I make a suggestion to
- 16 you?
- MR. ROMAINE: Certainly.
- 18 MS. SIMS: Can you put those documents
- 19 together? Robbins has a library. Assemble
- 20 those documents and put them in the library and
- 21 that way everyone can go to the library and you
- don't have to worry about trying to get them to

```
1 them.
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- 2 MR. ROMAINE: Come on up, Brad.
- 3 MR. FROST: Those documents that Chris
- 4 mentioned, which are the public notice, the
- 5 project summary, the draft permit, the
- 6 application, those are in your library in
- 7 Robbins.
- 8 But what Chris is saying is the
- 9 FOIA request we received are for any
- 10 correspondence, any documentation the agency has
- 11 above and beyond the application. The
- 12 application is in the library.
- MS. SIMS: So the information is there.
- 14 So when people call you, you can tell them to go
- to the library and all of the documents that
- 16 they are looking for are, in fact, in the
- 17 library.
- 18 MR. FROST: Yes. Again, the FOIA
- 19 request was for documents above and beyond the
- 20 application. For any communication the agency
- 21 has had concerning this project, which may be
- 22 more than the permit application.

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1 The permit application though, the
```

- 2 documents that Bob reviewed in making -- in
- drafting this draft permit, those are in the
- 4 library.
- 5 MS. SIMS: I'm not trying to get into
- 6 an argument with you guys. So if the
- 7 information is there, then you made it
- 8 available. So for now anybody who didn't know,
- 9 and then you should tell them that it's in the
- 10 library and where it is.
- 11 MR. FROST: And we did.
- MS. SIMS: Apparently they don't know
- it's there.
- MR. FROST: That was in the public
- 15 notice we put in the newspaper and within the
- 16 public notice we sent out to everyone that we
- 17 sent the notice to. So that information, yes,
- we have communicated that information to people
- 19 but there are three depositories.
- 20 MS. SIMS: What are the three
- 21 depositories?
- MR. FROST: They are the agency's field

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office in Des Plaines, the Robbins library, and
```

- then our headquarters down in Springfield.
- 3 MS. SIMS: So they have three places to
- 4 go to see the documents? Can they make copies?
- 5 MR. FROST: Yes. I believe the library
- 6 has a copy machine.
- 7 MS. SIMS: There's no restrictions on
- 8 them making the copies?
- 9 MR. FROST: No.
- 10 MS. SIMS: You can't have it better
- 11 than that. Then you have given the information
- then, they just have to go to the libraries and
- 13 get them.
- I think it's a great project. I
- just think that we should give an opportunity
- 16 for the EPA to do their job. Give Ed the
- opportunity to bring clean energy to Robbins;
- and if you don't, it closed once, it can close
- 19 again. And we hope that that doesn't happen.
- 20 MAYOR BRODIE: Commissioner, also our
- 21 library I think charges so much. You have to
- 22 pay for that. Because we don't have --

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1 MR. MOHR: Mayor, if you would like to
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- 2 be on the record, stand up. Let's do it to the
- 3 microphone so we make sure that you are on the
- 4 record.
- 5 MAYOR BRODIE: Thank you. I was just
- 6 saying to Commissioner Sims that our library has
- 7 to charge for making those materials, getting
- 8 those materials. I think they do because we
- 9 don't have a lot of money and so you all come
- 10 on.
- 11 MR. MOHR: Thank you, Mayor.
- 12 Is there anybody in the audience
- that would like to make a comment, please step
- 14 forward?
- 15 Remember to state your name and
- spell your last name and any association that
- 17 you want.
- 18 MR. PARKER: Thank you. Good evening.
- 19 I'm Robert Parker, P-a-r-k-e-r. And I have been
- 20 hired to act as the environmental health and
- 21 safety representative for Robbins Community
- 22 Power.

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1 My curriculum vitae spans 38 years,
```

- 2 and I have multiple responsibilities, not the
- 3 least of which is emergency response. That
- 4 holds true for the people on board the plant
- 5 property and holds equally true, not second, not
- 6 third, but right there for the community.
- 7 And the plan which I reauthored in
- 8 June -- I'm sorry, I'm out of breath. That's a
- 9 long way for an old man. In June or July of
- 10 last year exists, it's on file, and has been on
- 11 file and has even been posted on different Web
- 12 sites and things like that. So I thank you all
- very much, and I imagine you all are getting
- 14 pretty tired.
- 15 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- 16 Is there anybody else that would
- 17 like to make a comment or pose a question?
- 18 MR. TRZUPEK: Rich Trzupek,
- 19 T-r-z-u-p-e-k. Just a couple additional bits of
- information for those who had questions. I
- 21 can't answer everything but some of the things
- 22 may be helpful, and I know it's a large permit,

```
1 it's an even bigger application. So I know
```

- 2 everybody can't always find everything and
- 3 sometimes when I go looking, I can't find
- 4 everything.
- 5 The startup, shutdown, malfunction
- 6 plan is actually addressed in the application.
- 7 What you want to look for is forms 203 and 204
- 8 and they kind of set through the steps that the
- 9 plan has to go through. That's really not
- 10 unusual. Every power plant I have been
- 11 associated with has one. It's allowed for in
- 12 Illinois law. It's just kind of to allow you to
- see what you can do and how long you can take
- for startup before you actually have to stop
- starting up and how long you are allowed for
- 16 malfunction and that's all part of the
- application which is part of the permit.
- 18 As far as testing for dioxins and
- 19 furan, there is a condition in the permit for
- that, and I'm sure the agency will list that in
- 21 their responsiveness. It's condition 27.1.7-1B.
- 22 And then it's the last one organic compounds and

```
1
      there's a note that organic compounds includes
 2
      those things. And then I'm sure the question
 3
      would be well, how do you monitor for that
      continuously. And you really -- nobody monitors
 4
 5
      for those two compounds continuously. What you
      do is those things happen when you don't burn
 6
 7
      completely. That's always the issue. If you
 8
      don't have complete combustion, you can have bad
 9
      things that form. So what the EPA rules do for
10
      anybody who has a combustion process where you
11
      might be worried about dioxins and furan and say
12
      look for carbon monoxide, measure that
13
      continuously because that's the thing that tells
      you how good the combustion is. So that's what
14
```

we are doing like every other plant that can
make that, we are monitoring for carbon
monoxide.

There is a risk analysis with regard to hazardous air pollutants and their affect on the community that is in the application.

22 Again, I know it's a big

18

19

20

```
1 application. It's bigger than Webster's
```

- 2 dictionary. So if you have any trouble finding
- it, you know, you can contact myself or anybody
- 4 in Robbins and we can guide you to the right
- 5 spot but that actually is in the app.
- 6 And then for excess emissions, just
- 7 to clarify. The quarterly reports are
- 8 summaries. If we have any excess emissions, if
- 9 any plant has any excess emissions, under
- 10 Illinois rules we have to report -- I'm not a
- lawyer, I don't play one. I believe it's within
- 12 24 hours we always have to report an excess
- emission, but we have these quarterly summaries
- that we have to submit in addition. So it's not
- like we don't have to report if there was an
- 16 excess emission. That's all I have.
- 17 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- Do we have with any other comments
- 19 or questions?
- 20 Please restate your name and spell
- 21 your name.
- MR. TREPANIER: Lionel Trepanier,

```
1 T-r-e-p-a-n-i-e-r. I have a copy of my Freedom
```

- of Information request, the appeal and the
- 3 response, which I will present to the hearing
- 4 officer so they can make it part of the record
- 5 and we can take a look at that and you can see
- 6 if when Brad Frost stood up here if he was
- 7 truthful. As you will see that it's a three
- 8 sentence request not counting the hope you are
- 9 well and the thank you at the end.
- 10 But I think what he refers to what
- 11 Brad told you is that the request was for every
- 12 document about the Robbins incinerator. See if
- this is what Brad described. Also, please let
- 14 me know what other documents or documentation
- 15 has been received or developed or otherwise is
- in the relevant IEPA file regarding this
- 17 project. They are still looking for it. A
- 18 routine search didn't turn up what was in the
- 19 file. The law requires an index for that file.
- 20 That should have been on top. I only asked for
- 21 the index. But thank you, very much.
- MR. MOHR: Sir, would you like to make

```
1
      that part of the record?
 2
               MR. TREPANIER:
                                Thank you. Since they
 3
      haven't pushed me away, maybe we can learn a
      couple of these question. When were Exhibits 4,
 4
 5
      5, and 6 prepared to be entered as exhibits
      today? When were those available to the EPA?
 6
 7
               MR. MOHR: I can actually answer that
 8
      question. The exhibits were prepared by
 9
      Robbins, as I stated earlier, they were prepared
10
      and provided to us this evening; and as I stated
11
      earlier, we had no involvement in the
12
      preparation of those nor do we endorse those,
13
      but since they were using them here tonight, we
      had decided to make them at least part of the
14
15
      record so that everyone has an opportunity to
16
      take one of those home, to request one of those.
               MR. ROMAINE:
17
                              I believe that copies of
      those documents may have previously been
18
19
      provided to various staff members of the
```

MR. TREPANIER: For what purpose?

22 MR. ROMAINE: In terms of an

Illinois EPA.

20

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1 introductory meeting perhaps with bureau chiefs
```

- 2 describing the project.
- 3 MR. TREPANIER: Do you know when that
- 4 occurred?
- 5 MR. ROMAINE: Not off the top of my
- 6 head, no.
- 7 MR. TREPANIER: Is there a place in the
- 8 permit that it's disclosed that things other
- 9 than wood were going to be burned in this
- 10 incinerator, if so where?
- 11 MR. MOHR: I'm going to go ahead and
- 12 enter as Exhibit No. 7 two emails dated -- one
- dated February 23, 2008, from Lionel Trepanier
- to Brad Frost. Next March 12, 2008, from Lionel
- 15 Trepanier to Doug Scott, Brad Frost. And the
- third portion of Exhibit No. 7 is a letter from
- 17 the Illinois EPA to Mr. Trepanier dated
- 18 March 18, 2008.
- 19 MR. ROMAINE: The permitted fuels for
- 20 the boiler are discussed in finding 1B and in
- 21 condition 2.1.5-1.
- 22 MR. TREPANIER: Could you just give us

```
1 the page number.
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- 2 MR. ROMAINE: We may be working off of
- 3 different pages.
- 4 MR. TREPANIER: Is it in the
- 5 construction permit?
- 6 MR. ROMAINE: Yes.
- 7 MR. TREPANIER: Could you give me a
- 8 page number?
- 9 MR. ROMAINE: What version of the
- 10 document do you have?
- 11 MR. TREPANIER: The one that was
- 12 distributed here today construction permit.
- 13 MR. TRZUPEK: I believe it's 15.
- MR. TREPANIER: Thank you for that.
- 15 Did the Bureau of Land have more
- than the four pages that was provided in the
- 17 Freedom of Information? Did you produce a
- document or review a document more than four
- 19 pages as regards to this project?
- 20 MR. WIGHT: The document that we
- 21 primarily worked on is the wood fuel quality
- 22 plan, which I believe is attached to the permit.

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1 Is that not a part of the draft permit?
```

- 2 MR. ROMAINE: Yes, it is.
- MR. WIGHT: We had several meetings
- 4 with the Robbins folks on what that plan would
- 5 look like. It went through, I don't know, maybe
- 6 a half a dozen meetings or more and the final
- 7 product is already public. Anything else would
- 8 be drafts.
- 9 MR. TREPANIER: Is there not documents
- 10 -- when you say worked on it, you had just the
- 11 document. I mean is that the only document that
- 12 you had is the document you produced? Or did
- 13 you have documents -- is there science behind
- 14 that?
- 15 Is there something that you have
- that you used to come up with that document?
- 17 MR. WIGHT: Well, I think it was based
- on our interpretation of Illinois law with
- 19 regard to solid waste management primarily and
- 20 the fundamental principle that materials can be
- 21 salvaged from waste and turned into usable
- 22 products. We consider wood to be a usable fuel

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1 product, and the key point was that we reach a
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- 2 wood quality control plan that would be free
- 3 from contaminants and we define contaminants in
- 4 a couple different ways. One was contaminated
- 5 wood, which would be creosote, pressure treated,
- 6 painted wood and other contaminants would be
- 7 formed materials, nonwood materials.
- 8 MR. TREPANIER: Did you consider
- 9 arsenic treated wood?
- 10 MR. DRAGOVICH: Yes. That would be
- 11 contaminated wood, it wouldn't be acceptable
- 12 under the plan.
- 13 MR. TREPANIER: Okay, great. It's not
- 14 acceptable. Did you conclude that arsenic
- treated wood could be determined visually?
- 16 MR. DRAGOVICH: It can be determined
- 17 visually it has a different color.
- 18 MR. TREPANIER: Okay. At what age?
- 19 Like what age? Is that entire life of wood,
- arsenic treated wood that it could be determined
- 21 by age; and if so, do you have a document that
- 22 says that or is that your own personal

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1 knowledge?
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- 2 MR. DRAGOVICH: What happens there are
- 3 some documents available from the USEPA
- 4 regarding treated wood. I couldn't tell you the
- 5 name of them off the top of my head.
- I can tell you that what they
- 7 indicated was that the wood on the interior is
- 8 always going to have that color. So when you
- 9 chip the wood or cut the wood, you are going to
- 10 see the color of the treated wood again. You
- 11 won't see it on the outside because it's
- weathered but the stuff that's newly chipped,
- 13 you will see the color again.
- MR. TREPANIER: So if it's arsenic
- 15 treated wood, you might not see it when you are
- separating the wood but you have to chip it
- first, then you can determine if it's arsenic
- 18 treated; is that correct?
- MR. DRAGOVICH: Can you repeat that?
- 20 MR. TREPANIER: I was just trying to
- 21 clarify your answer. Are you saying that
- arsenic treated wood, this would be part of the

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demolition debris onsite they are going to be
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- 2 sorting this wood. I mean, I know the permit
- doesn't say how they are going to be trained to
- 4 recognize arsenic treated wood but that it's
- 5 going to be done visually.
- Now you seem to indicate that old
- 7 arsenic treated wood as in my experience looks
- 8 the same as untreated wood, and you indicated
- 9 that once that wood is chipped, the color -- is
- 10 it a green color?
- 11 MR. DRAGOVICH: The arsenic treated
- 12 wood is green color, yes.
- MR. TREPANIER: Green. But when you
- 14 chip it, you will be able to see that it's
- 15 green. So is what you are telling us is that
- the fuel suppliers will need to chip the wood
- and see if it's green to know if it's going to
- 18 be -- should be rejected?
- 19 MR. ROMAINE: I think primary shredding
- 20 which breaks the wood.
- 21 MR. DRAGOVICH: One of their procedures
- is they are going to take long pieces of wood

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1 and what they call is primary shredding. But
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- 2 basically what they are doing is breaking it
- down in smaller pieces three or four feet or
- 4 less to make it easier to manage on the sorting
- 5 belt and when they break it, then they will be
- 6 able to see that that's treated wood and they
- 7 will be able to pull it out of the line.
- 8 MR. TREPANIER: Okay. Is there any
- 9 training provision? Is training at all
- 10 specified? What do you imagine is the training
- 11 for the persons who are going to be recognizing
- 12 contaminated wood? I mean I went through the
- permit. I know it is lengthy, it's 91 pages.
- 14 And I didn't see the application, although I
- asked for it. Maybe you have. And what's the
- 16 training provision?
- 17 MR. DRAGOVICH: There is training
- requirements, and maybe the company could
- 19 address this in better detail than me, but
- there's an obligation in this wood plan that
- 21 Robbins Power require all their suppliers to go
- through training to learn how to separate the

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1 wood before they will have a contract with them.
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- 2 MR. TREPANIER: But you don't know what
- 3 that training is? I mean you approved the wood
- 4 plan. Do you know what the training is?
- 5 MR. DRAGOVICH: I know I read the
- 6 training but for me to regurgitate the training
- 7 plan right now I can't.
- 8 MR. TREPANIER: Where did you read the
- 9 training? I just haven't located it. I see the
- 10 permit requiring training, but I haven't seen
- 11 any documents specifying what the training is.
- 12 MR. DRAGOVICH: I think some of that
- information is available in the wood fuel
- quality plan that's attached.
- 15 MR. TREPANIER: Yes, I did. I searched
- 16 it. You can get it on the Internet, bring it up
- in a PDF format and you can search for a word.
- 18 You can search on the word training, you will
- 19 see the word training appears 13 times. That's
- 20 what I did. But it doesn't say what the
- 21 training is. The training is actually the
- 22 penalty.

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1 If somebody sends -- if its
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- 2 contaminated wood is discovered at the
- 3 incinerator twice, then Robbins Resource Company
- 4 can require training for that supplier.
- 5 But my question is: What's
- 6 training?
- 7 MR. DRAGOVICH: I think the best I can
- 8 tell you right now is that we can response to
- 9 that in our Responsiveness Summary. I can't
- 10 tell you off the top of my head what the
- 11 training is.
- 12 MR. TREPANIER: Is there a document?
- 13 I'm not expecting you to regurgitate that
- document to me. What I'm asking you: Is there
- a document that specifies the training? Do you
- 16 know if there's a document that specifies the
- 17 training?
- 18 MR. DRAGOVICH: The best I can remember
- it's in the wood fuel quality management plan.
- MR. TREPANIER: And, sir, would it be
- 21 then -- is it your recollection then if it's in
- fact not in the wood resource plan, that it

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1 doesn't exist?
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- 2 MR. MOHR: I'm going to let him answer
- 3 your question.
- 4 MR. TREPANIER: Thank you.
- 5 MR. MOHR: I have given you a little
- 6 bit over ten minutes. I want to make sure --
- 7 and I'll come back to you. I want to make sure
- 8 if there's anybody else out there and if there
- 9 is, then let's come back.
- 10 I'm going to let him answer your
- 11 question, and I'm going to ask if there's
- anybody else, we will get back to you if you
- 13 have other questions.
- MR. TREPANIER: Thank you.
- 15 MR. DRAGOVICH: I would have to go back
- and look at the wood fuel management plan and
- 17 talk -- I don't have a copy of the application
- 18 itself. I mean, we have discussed these
- documents, but I don't recall exactly where
- 20 that's at. But I think the training part has
- 21 been addressed in either the application or the
- 22 wood fuel quality management plan. And the best

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1 I can offer is we will respond to that in the
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- 2 Responsiveness Summary and if it's not in there,
- 3 we will say it's not in there.
- 4 MR. TREPANIER: Thank you.
- 5 MR. MOHR: Anyone else that has a
- 6 comment or a question?
- 7 Please step forward.
- 8 MR. SMITH: Good evening. My name is
- 9 Emil Smith of Emil Smith Environmental &
- 10 Associates. I'd just like to make a comment
- 11 related to the quality of the wood materials
- 12 such as arsenic and so forth.
- Over the last 10, 12 years, we have
- 14 conducted a number of studies for the U.S.
- Department of Energy and as far as products lab,
- 16 the studies were done some of them through the
- 17 Council of Great Lakes Governors with the
- assistance of various state agencies, energy
- 19 bureaus from the states, solid waste industry, a
- 20 number of different types of organizations
- 21 provided input to this work.
- 22 One of the things we found was that

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1 as you begin to look at all the different types
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- of wood is that wood that would have say arsenic
- 3 in it would be primarily wood such as railroad
- 4 ties, which is pretty well-distinguishable for a
- 5 processor who's processing wood into a fuel.
- 6 He's going to be handling wood such as wood
- 7 chips, pallets, a number of different types of
- 8 clean wood is out there that, it's available to
- 9 shred and chip, whereas if you get railroad
- ties, that is a type that it's very easily
- distinguishable, which would have some arsenic
- 12 in it.
- So basically I think what we found
- is that yes, you can distinguish between
- different types of wood. There are a lot of
- 16 different types, significant sources of it. We
- 17 have looked at the tonnages around the state,
- around the midwest, there's a great amount of
- 19 good clean wood that's there.
- 20 So again, I believe that having
- looked at these waste handling operations as to
- 22 how you inspect and so forth, that you could

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1 inspect and find and distinguish between the
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- 2 different types of wood. You could train the
- 3 people to say hey, we have a lot of different
- 4 types of large quanties of good clean wood and
- 5 wood chips, wood pallets coming in, I think you
- 6 could set up and train people to where they
- 7 could inspect and identify wood that we would
- 8 like the project removed from. Thank you.
- 9 MR. MOHR: Thank you.
- 10 Are there any other questions
- 11 tonight or comments?
- 12 MR. TREPANIER: Just one question. How
- much employment is going to be created as this
- incinerator is operating?
- MR. MOHR: Sir, who are you posing that
- 16 question to?
- 17 MR. TREPANIER: If any of the
- 18 presenters tonight have an answer as to how much
- 19 employment actually would be created in the
- 20 operation of the incinerator. Thank you.
- 21 MR. KALEBICH: Ed Kalebich,
- 22 K-a-l-e-b-i-c-h, with Robbins Community Power.

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1 We are anticipating that there will
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- 2 be between 32 and 34 full-time jobs. That does
- 3 not include the additional jobs that may come as
- 4 a result of the processors in the marketplace.
- 5 So the power plant not the incinerator will have
- 6 32 to 34 full-time jobs. It will have 75 to 100
- 7 construction jobs that will be part of the
- 8 redevelopment of the power plant project as well
- 9 too. Thank you.
- 10 MR. MOHR: Any other questions? Thank
- 11 you.
- Seeing no more members of the
- public with questions or comments, as we bring
- this hearing to a close, I want to remind
- 15 everyone that the comment period for the record
- in this matter closes May 8, 2008. So any
- 17 written comments must be postmarked before
- 18 midnight on May 8th to be accepted as part of
- 19 the record. Copies of the exhibits are
- 20 available upon request.
- The time now is approximately
- 9:36 p.m., and this hearing is adjourned. Thank

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you for your participation this evening and
 1
 2
       travel safe.
 3
                          (WHICH, were all of the
                           proceedings had, evidence
 4
 5
                           offered or received in the
 6
                           above entitled cause.)
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1
       STATE OF ILLINOIS )
                            ss:
 2
      COUNTY OF DU PAGE )
 3
                     I, KATHLEEN BONO, Certified
       Shorthand Reporter, Notary Public in and for the
 4
 5
      County DuPage, State of Illinois, do hereby
 6
       certify that previous to the commencement of the
 7
      examination and testimony of the various
 8
      witnesses herein, they were duly sworn by me to
 9
       testify the truth in relation to the matters
      pertaining hereto; that the testimony given by
10
11
       said witnesses was reduced to writing by means
12
      of shorthand and thereafter transcribed into
13
      typewritten form; and that the foregoing is a
14
      true, correct and complete transcript of my
15
       shorthand notes so taken aforesaid.
16
                     IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have
17
      hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial
       seal this ____ day of April, A.D. 2008.
18
19
                              KATHLEEN BONO,
20
                              C.S.R. No. 84-1423,
                              Notary Public, DuPage County
21
                              237 South Wisconsin Avenue,
                              Addison, IL 60101-3837
22
```

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